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**NOTES BY THE WAY.**

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*Half-breeds.*—Everyone knows—or ought to know—that the "Oxfords" are a cross between the Cotswold ram and the Hampshire-down ewe, it being invariably the practice of our leading producers of cross-bred stock to put the better bred parent "a-top." When "Druce of Eynsham" originated the Oxford, he had to exercise a vast amount of patience, as it was not easy to get the same characteristics indelibly fixed throughout the flock. Now, however, the type is firmly imprinted on the breed—for the Oxfords are a *breed*, though of course not a *race*,—as any one who carefully inspects a pen of these sheep at any of our exhibitions can see at a glance.

Of late years, the "Shropshire" (1) has, very properly, excited a great deal of attention on this continent; in fact, it is the fashionable breed of the day here. We say, again, "breed" but not race, as the Shropshires sprang originally from an aboriginal hill stock in the county that gives them their name, and were brought to their present state of perfection by the same means as were practised in the case of the Oxfords.

To our mind, then, it seems that, if the same rule is to be observed in sheep-breeding that is observed by all good breeders of cattle, namely, that no male shall be employed to serve cows unless he is indisputably *pure-bred*; it seems, we

(1) The Shropshires were not allowed to compete at the Royal Ag. Soc. shows in England till 1852, when the exhibition was held at Gloucester. Ed.