

tion he wants a market for it; crosses find a more ready sale and a much better price, which more than make up for the increased consumption of food. There is a very great difference of opinion upon the subject of crossing, many, and many, still contending that it is not desirable to go beyond the first cross; and the most successful and common mode pursued is to use long-woolled ram upon South or Hampshire down or other dark-faced ewes. This course has been found to answer better than a short-woolled ram upon long-woolled ewes; for the produce generally partakes of the size of the male, and, as, having an eye to the butcher, is a great desideratum in crossing. The great objection urged by many against this system is, that as all the produce is sold off annually the breeder is driven into the market every year for ewes, which are mostly the drafts of other people's flocks, thereby running the risk of introducing all manner of diseases on to his farm; besides, there is a want of uniformity in the ewes, some taking after the sire and others after the dam; moreover, having to purchase ewes every year, the demand is increased and supply is diminished. This cannot be desirable, for with a fast increasing and flourishing population, bringing with it a growing demand for meat, the breeding of sheep cannot be too extensively carried on. The objections I have alluded to the mode of crossing I have described, have been felt by many, and successful efforts have been made by the men of Shropshire, Oxfordshire, and other districts, to produce sheep to unite the well-known and acknowledged qualities of the Down with the larger framed and heavier fleeced long wools. What has been done can be done again. If it was possible Mr. Bakewell, by a judicious selection from various long wools, to produce the new Leicester; for the Hampshire men, by the use of Sussex Down, to change the characteristics of their native horned breed; who shall say it is impossible at the present day, with our enlarged knowledge and increased facilities, to produce results equal to those who have gone before us?

Oxfordshire and Shropshire men in their efforts to establish these newer breeds are guided up in their principles of breeding by a high authority, a gentleman who is a member of this club. I allude to Mr. Spooner, who has written a most excellent paper upon the breeding of sheep in the last Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and I take this opportunity of saying that for practical papers and good downright farmers' sense no previous journal has equalled it. Mr. Spooner, I know, did his best to make it so. I am now that it has fallen into other hands it is conducted in like manner. Mr. Spooner's one of his conclusions bearing upon this subject is, "Although the benefits are most evident in the first cross, after which, from pairing the crossed animals, the defects of one breed or the other, or the incongruities of both, are per-

petually breaking out, yet unless the characteristics and conformation of the two breeds are altogether averse to each other, nature opposes no barrier to their successful admixture, so that in the course of time, by the aid of selection and careful breeding, it is practicable to establish a new breed altogether. This, in fact, has been the history of our principal breeds." Mr. Spooner goes on to show that the Leicester was produced from crossing in the first instance, the Cotswold and Lincoln have been improved by the Leicester, and the Hampshire and Wiltshire have also been crossed and improved by the Southdown; and as regards the latter, there is a doubt in some minds whether their improved chines and backs were not brought about by some such means. From all this it would appear the word "pure" is out of place when speaking of any breed, and therefore I prefer to use the term happily chosen by Mr. Robert Smith, in his report of the Royal Agricultural Society at Chester and Warwick, viz., the "established" breeds.

Horse Talk to Tyros.

When horses are grazing in a state of nature, or turned out for a temporary run, they, doubtless, swallow a deal of earth. I have seen those that are regularly kept in stables, and fed only on oats and hay, if allowed, when out, seize any opportunity to eat earth. I have also seen horses when first unbridled in the stable, after a journey, lick every particle of it from their feet, or if they can get at a whitewashed wall they will never rest until every bit of lime is licked off it. All horses should have a lump of rock-salt and a piece of chalk kept regularly in their mangers; and my opinion is, that if they are fed upon food best suited to their constitution, and moderately, but not over-worked, they will require but little, if any, medicine whatever. Most of their disorders are the results of close confinement in badly drained and badly ventilated stables, and are to be prevented or remedied only by proper stable management, and plenty of gentle work or exercise in the open air, for air and exercise is as essential for preserving the health of horses as human beings. Their infirmities and unsoundness (when not transmitted by breeding from unsound progenitors) are almost invariably caused by too much work, and their internal diseases by over-feeding and want of exercise, or pure air in the stable. But I would not, on this account, proceed to drug and poison them internally with balls and patent medicines, of which there are now-a-days so many vendors, who know nothing whatever about the anatomy or nature of the horse; neither would I subject their skin and sinews to operations which, in some cases, is as cruel as it is ignorant and useless. But if curbs, splints, apavins, and the like, make their appearance in embryo (caused by over-work while too young),