

SHORT HORNS.

The short horns of Mr. Cornell were fully up to the high standard his herd has attained, and the show made by Mr. Butts, who had not been an exhibitor for several years, was of remarkable excellence. It possessed an interest, moreover, from showing how great good can be done by a single animal of pure and high descent, and proved Mr. Butts to be a breeder of intelligence and skill, so that it deserves a few words of notice in this place. Beginning with a good foundation, but with animals of pedigrees considered "old fashioned" (though their value is now beginning to be appreciated) a Countess of the strain so long bred by Lewis F. Allen, and a Pansy of the Van Rensselaer importation, Mr. Butts had bred in the same lines until his purchase, about 1858, of the pure Bates bull, Apricot's Gloster, 2500, son of the famous Duke of Gloster, 11382, and the imported cow, Apricot, by 3d Duke of York 10166. This bull was, as he stood on the Fair ground of Watertown, in 1861, winner of the first prize in his class, worthy of his descent, of a beautiful red colour, of very remarkable quality, symmetry and compactness, short in leg, good in chest and crops, very level and deep, of good carriage, and with a very beautiful head, well set—not high—on a short and well formed neck. But what was more to the purpose he proved to be—even for one of Duke of Gloster's sons—a remarkably powerful sire, and his owner had the sense and judgment to continue using him while he lived, the result being a herd of which any breeder might well be proud.

None of the inbred cattle show the slightest deficiency of substance or constitution, quite the contrary. They are shown in natural condition and are eminently useful looking beasts. It is not intended, in these remarks, to convey the idea that inbreeding can be carried on forever without a check, but to enforce the truths so well set forth by Mr. Allen in his prefatory essay to the first volume of the American Herd Book when he says:

"To such as intend to breed cattle of decided excellence, we recommend to select bulls of moderate size, coupled with all the fineness of bone and limb consistent with a proper masculine vigor and energy, and with fullness of carcase and ripeness of points, so as to embody great substance within small compass. *In addition to this let him be deeply bred, that is of as pure blood and of as long ancestry (not depending altogether on the herd book for this, as many of the best class of animals have comparatively short herd book pedigrees) as possible.* * * * * Your cows, we will presume are such as your opportunities have enabled you to procure, but of approved blood. If the

bull selected breed well to your cows, have no fears of continuing his services to a second or even a third generation of his own get. Such practice will produce uniformity, and uniformity is one great excellence. No matter for the color, so that it be within the short-horn colours."

DEVONS, &c.

In the Devon class the credit of this hardy and beautiful sort was well maintained by Mr. Cole, who was, however, disappointed by the absence of his usual rival; but in the Ayrshires the lovers of this excellent dairy breed were gratified by seeing the two best herds in the state, both fully represented, in competition; and it was a pleasure to welcome Mr. Hungerford again as an exhibitor. In the absence of Mr. Dimsworth, the Jersey honors were carried by the Beacon Farm herd of which a capital entry was made. The Herefords did not put in an appearance at all.

HORSES.

The show of horses was an exceedingly good one in the division of breeding stock, but only respectable in the class of harness horses, although of single harness horses there was a good entry. The class of stallions for general purposes was one of the strongest and best ever exhibited at the Fairs of this Society.—The class of road stallions was also very good, and the show of young stock was a large and very creditable one, the large entry made by Mr. Morris being a very prominent feature of it.

CLASSIFICATION OF HORSES—HORSE TALK
—WHAT IS A HORSE GOOD FOR?

Upon the declaration of the awards of the horse premiums, the new classification of horses, adopted 1868 and continued this year, was made the subject of some criticism, on the ground that it was unfair to compel horses of mixed or unknown blood to compete with thorough breeds.

The changes made in 1868, in the list of premiums offered for horses, consisted in giving up the special or separate class for thorough-breeds, thus throwing them into the class of horses for general purposes, and in likewise giving up the special class for horses of the Morgan and Black Hawk breeds. With the latter change no one is likely to find fault, for these breeds (if they ever were breeds in the strict sense of the word) are no longer much cultivated in any purity, and besides if they were not horses for general purposes to which class they are now remitted, they were nothing. Granting that the Morgans and Black Hawks possessed all the qualities their admirers (with a good deal of justice) claimed for them, their proper place was always in this class. A third change in the list was the addition of premiums for stallions for getting roadsters. This addition seemed to be a

necessary one, it has called out a very excellent exhibition and is believed to be generally approved.

The question then is reduced to this, should the thorough-bred horse be allowed to compete in the class of horses for general purposes or should he not? It is believed that the question cannot be answered in the negative without necessitating the admission that the present classification is radically wrong throughout, as being based upon the use to which the animal is adapted instead of upon his breeding.

In the former list (previous to 1868) the classification of horses was a mixed one, two breeds being allotted each a list of prizes to itself and the rest of the prizes being arranged according to the uses of the animals. The facts were that under this arrangement neither thorough-breeds nor Morgans made any show to speak of. Occasionally a weedy thorough-bred or two would be shown, and the blood-horse was often the subject of contemptuous remarks by men who had never seen him in perfection.

The classification of horses in our prize list—by their uses instead of their breeds—seems to be the only practicable and sensible one for us to adopt, not only because the character of our agriculture is such that our needs call imperatively for horses that can plough, do our teaming, and draw our waggons and carriages to mill, to church, and to market, and which besides this, shall be active enough, big enough and handsome enough to sell for good prices when they arrive at maturity; these qualifications ensuring at the same time that if by accident they become unfit for market they can still (unless entirely disabled) be profitably kept to wear out upon the farm or in the team; but because our people do not cultivate distinct breeds of horses, nor as a rule breed horses with any system, so that if we should adopt the classification by breeds very few of the classes would ever show a respectable entry, nor would the prizes serve any useful purpose.

If then we are to arrange our list with reference to the uses to which the animals are adapted, is it reasonable to exclude any horse from competition for a prize on account of his race or descent? It would seem that under such a classification the question should be, "what is the horse good for?" not "how is he bred?" It has been always admitted that the English thorough-bred horse possesses great activity and endurance, great massiveness (or specific gravity) of bone, strength of sinew and great proportionate development of the organs of respiration and circulation. It is also long since admitted that he possesses the power of imparting largely of these qualities to his produce by cold blooded mares. The history of the horse in all civilized coun-