

prizes, but he brought the two pictures in order to illustrate what he considered the weak points of one and the good points of the other. He pointed out the deficiencies of the ankles of the mare, but said when she was shown the judges thought sufficiently well of her to give her a prize. The other was never thoroughly beaten, and was never shown but what he got a prize, excepting at Cambridge, when a Fen horse took the prize, against the Suffolks. The horse was 16 hands half an inch high. The late Mr. Worledge had an animal which looked half as big again, but when they got on to the weigh-bridges there were only 5 stones difference; one had weight and the other had not.

Mr. Lingwood referred to Mr. Catlin's Captain, whose blood came down to the late Mr. Crisp's Prince. Many that had descended from that blood might be a little small below, but they were clean and smart; and if farmers wanted to get rid of a good gelding for London work it must have some style about it. It would not do to have the very upright shoulders that had been alluded to if they wanted a horse to sell well. The President would agree with him that if his mare had not got very sloping shoulders, but still sloping, she would not walk and show as she did. We had now come to the year 1871, and if we wanted a useful gelding for London work there must be style about it, even though it was at the sacrifice of a little substance. He (Mr. Lingwood) knew that he was touching upon a tender point, but Mr. Crosse appeared to be an advocate for an upright shoulder.

Mr. Crosse: You must not call that an upright shoulder. He had always held that the angle of the shoulder of a hackney or for London work might be 45 degrees backward, but a Suffolk cart-horse ought never to be above 25 to 30. The fastest walker he ever knew was bred by Mr. Crisp's Prince. She could walk five miles an hour, and she had the most upright shoulders.

The President said the point now under discussion was as to the uprightness or otherwise of the shoulder. Looking at it in a practical light, there might be a great deal in what Mr. Crosse had said, that more or less the upright shoulder did give a better pulling power to the collar. It was according to the law of mechanics that a good shoulder lying well back would enable the animal to put its forelegs out better than in the case of an upright shoulder. For drawing a heavy plough an upright shoulder might do as well, and perhaps better; but still, as had been said, if they wanted to breed horses for London, there must be smartness. The fault that the Suffolk horses had run into was that they were a little light in the bone, a little small below the knee, and some of them had feet which were like to turn bad. These were the things which breeders must guard against. It was very essential to get good sound feet, it being a frequent matter of complaint that the Suffolk horses could not stand the stones. This is an evil that ought to be eradicated if possible. In a Suffolk horse he liked to see a good loin and good hind-quarters. He liked to see a wide loin up and down, and carried up into a long sweeping quarter, and this, with good action, made a perfect horse.

The Vice-Chairman (Mr. Heigham) was bound to say that the cart-horses in the eastern side of the country were generally superior to those in the western division. Those

gentlemen who were residing in the western division of the country were greatly indebted to Colonel Wilson for introducing some most valuable stallions into their neighborhood.

The President said his great object in buying the cart-stallions was to see if West Suffolk could not, after a time, equal East Suffolk. There had not been first-class stallions travelling through their part of the country; but he was now trying to give the farmers of West Suffolk the opportunity of making use of some good blood. That he had not taken the step he had with the view of making money was quite clear from the prices which he had given for them. He should like to see the horses of the western division equal those of the eastern. He purchased at the Newbourne sale the best yearling out of the famous Victoria, by Monarch. It was well known that Mr. Wolton had been breeding with great care for years past, and at the sale there was the best lot of animals, taken as a whole, that he (the President) ever saw in his life. He bought a foal which was fortunate enough to win the first prize at the Sudbury show. He promised to turn out a good, stout, useful animal. If he turned out well, he would be at their service.

Mr. Crosse said reference had been made to horses for use in London, but it should be remembered that the object for this evening's discussion was that of the agricultural cart-horse. The best horse he ever saw in his life for symmetry was Honest Tom, a Cambridgeshire horse, but his father was a Lincolnshire horse. It was the best shaped horse he ever saw in his life. It had four white legs and a white head. It was a lemon-bay, with pearl-ash hair about the legs. Had it been shown as a cart-horse against all the world he never saw one that would beat him. Mr. Crosse then went on to speak of other descriptions of cart-horses, alluding to the Wolds of Somersetshire, where three cart-horses were put to a plough, where the work was 10 to 12 inches deep, and he said our Suffolk horse would be of but little use there. He also alluded to Sussex, where they ploughed 15 inches deep, and to the Newcastle horses. As to breeding a smart-looking horse for London, Mr. Crosse spoke of the long time it would be necessary to keep it, and of the expense incurred. He then observed that if you wanted an animal with shoulders lying back like those of a hunter, you would not get one that could pull a dead pull.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Crosse for his paper.

HOW TO RAISE ASPARAGUS.

For more than twenty years I have been accustomed to hear about the same class of questions asked by consumers, why it was that Asparagus, a vegetable that was always in good demand, and usually commanding high prices, was not more generally cultivated by farmers, as well as gardeners, situated favourably, and accessible to good markets?

During these twenty years I have been engaged, more or less each year, in growing vegetables for market, and at different times have known each and every kind of vegetable grown to any extent for market to be a "drug," with the single

exception of asparagus, which so far has always been in good demand, and that at paying prices.

There are few persons who have been engaged on an extensive scale in "truck-ing" who have not been compelled to sell, in "bad seasons," a part or the whole of a crop for less money than it cost to produce it. This would apply to the whole list of vegetables, leaving out asparagus, which during such dull seasons and poor markets is generally made use of by those who grow it to work off other kind of vegetables, that is, in case a grocer wants two or more dozen of asparagus, to get it he would be obliged to buy a portion of whatever the grower had on his wagon at the time. In this way the gardener who had an abundance of asparagus would not lose so much in the sale of his crops in dull seasons as he who was not so situated.

Within the past few years more attention has been given to the culture of asparagus, and it is not rare now to find fields of from two to seven acres in different sections devoted to asparagus for New York and other large markets. Some of these new plantations have already begun to yield, and still prices are not in the least affected, but on the contrary have advanced. The past season growers estimated the yield was above an average one, and still prices ranged higher than they have for many years. This condition of matters is quite encouraging for those who have young beds, or are about to embark in this branch of gardening with a view to profit.

To be successful in the culture of asparagus for market, there are a few essential points to be fully considered and carried out before any hopes of success can be entertained.

The first is a selection of the most suitable soil and situation. The second, a thorough mechanical preparation of the soil before planting, and third, heavy manuring.

The location of the bed is important, from the fact that when asparagus first come into market, it sells briskly at from \$5 to \$8 per dozen bunches, and frequently as high as \$12 per dozen, if the spears are large and the bunches carefully made. From these prices it gradually falls, as the supply increases, until it reaches \$2 per dozen, and very seldom goes below this price, although at \$1.50 per dozen asparagus will pay a handsome profit.

When the soil has only been indifferently prepared, and poorly manured, earliness of the crop and large size spears cannot be expected, and as a matter of course, under such circumstances a large share of what would be the profits are not realized by the producer.

SOWING THE SEED.

Asparagus seed should be sowed in the Spring, in a bed made deep, mellow and