

The Best Milk Producing Breeds of Cattle.

ARTICLE I.—SHORTHORNS.

BY C. C. GARDINER.

In this series of articles on the milking qualities of the different breeds I shall do the Shorthorns the honor of naming them first, as they are, no doubt, the most representative kind to be found among civilized nations of any land. There are few civilized countries in which they are not to be found. China, Japan and all the South American Republics have for some years imported them. They are a most valuable breed of cattle, which their history tells us have existed in the northern counties of England from time immemorial. Their central location may be said to have been on the River Tees, flowing between the counties of York and Durham, where they were formerly called the Teeswater breed of cattle. It is said they came at some remote period from the Continent of Europe, and having gained a footing in these counties retained it. They were, however left to propagate by chance, for a long period, but perhaps for about one hundred years before the publication of the 1st Vol. of the English Herd Book, many breeders, amongst whom might be found noblemen, and wealthy country gentlemen, had been in the habit of bestowing great care and attention upon the selection and breeding of the Shorthorn cattle, and in preserving the pedigree in manuscript in a more or less complete shape. About the year 1700, Messrs. Charles and Robert Colling commenced as breeders, and obtained a very distinguished place in the profession. Shorthorns, about this time, from their superior milking and feeding qualities, began to obtain a high popularity, and at Mr. Charles Colling's sale, as long ago as 1810, his herd consisting of 48 animals, amongst them the bull 'Cornet [155]' sold for the extraordinary sum of £7,115 stg., realizing the astonishing average of £148 5 stg., or about \$740. In the year 1822 after the breed of Shorthorns had been long established as a superior breed, Mr. Cotes, himself an eminent breeder, published the 1st vol. of the Shorthorn Herd Book. That work is continued in successive volumes until the present time; and since its inception thousands of Shorthorns have been exported from England at remunerative prices to supply the increasing demand from other countries. Many persons of great experience with most breeds of milking cattle, place the Shorthorns first for milk, above all others. In a lecture given by Dr. Voelcker, at the Paris Museum of Hygiene, in London, not long since, on 'Milk and the best breeds for producing it,' he unhesita-

tingly places the Shorthorns without a peer. He says, 'Of all breeds of cattle none hold so high a place as the Shorthorns, and this is the case not only when it is regarded as a meat producing animal, but also for dairy purposes.'

The Shorthorns are universally considered as deep milkers; and their use in herds such as Sir Hussey Vivian's, Mr. Tisdall's and others amply bears this out. He further says, 'Two other points of the greatest importance in considering their advantages as dairy cattle are. Firstly, the possession by them in the highest degree of the power of transmitting their milking properties, on which account they are eminently suited for crossing and improving other breeds, by imparting a Shorthorn character to them. Secondly, the readiness with which the cows, when they have ceased to yield a remunerative supply of milk, will lay on meat of an excellent quality. In addition to these two chief points, there are others, such as their early maturity, robustness and excellence in rearing their young. So we find that our dairy cattle are getting stamped more and more with Shorthorn character.'

In Sir Hussey Vivian's herd the average produce of milk is 750 gallons per season, while one Shorthorn cow gave no less than 1000 gallons of milk between calving and calving, and had two calves within twelve months.

Mr. Tisdall, of Holland Park Farm, in his paper at the Gloucester Dairy Conference, speaking of his shorthorns, gives for them an average of 10.33 quarts per day for 10½ months, and says, 'if properly selected from the best families, and properly fed, Shorthorns will produce as much milk and much more beef than any other breed.'

Mr. James Long, in his lecture not long since, at the Institute of Agriculture in London, in speaking of dairy cattle, said 'the Shorthorns were highly recommended as one of the most, if not the most valuable cows for a milk seller or butter maker, more especially if the dairy be carried on in connection with grain growing or beef making. There are numerous instances of extraordinary butter making by Shorthorn cattle, and there is, perhaps, no race in Great Britain which has done such great things so far as regards yield of milk, as this race, and at the present moment Lord Warwick's, Mr. Tisdall's, and other records, stand out as probably the best results which have been obtained by any race in any country.'

To partly substantiate the statements made by Mr. Long, Mr. Tisdall, and Dr. Voelcker, who must be considered among the highest authorities, I may here state that for the last 10 years a series of experimental tests have been made under the auspices of the British Dairy Farmer's Association, at Islington, London England. The object of the association is the improvement of

the dairy stock and dairy produce by encouraging the breeding and rearing of stock, for the special purpose of the dairy. These tests help towards the solution of the question; Which are the most profitable breeds for milk? A champion prize has been given the last four years to that animal of whatever breed which united in the largest degree all the essential parts in a model dairy cow, and in each year of the four the prize has been taken by a Shorthorn cow. The last of these tests was made on the 5th of October just past, when the First Prize and Champion Cup was awarded to a Shorthorn cow belonging to the Executors of late Mr. Brdsey, with 98.30 marks out of 100, the second also a Shorthorn with 98.10 marks, and the third an Ayrshire with 97.72, this latter yielding 53 lbs of milk in 24 hours, and showing 12½ per cent. of cream. The analysis has been made by a Professor appointed for the purpose, so as to aid a Committee in determining the milking and butter producing powers of the animals, of the different breeds entered for milking prizes. The most of the classes were well filled, the Jerseys were as usual very large and fine classes, and the Guernseys are reported to have been the best in quality that have been seen at the show. Various other breeds competed, viz: Norfolk Red Polls, Kerries, and Dexters, Herefords, crosses between Shorthorn and Ayrshire, Shorthorn and Guernseys, &c. &c.

N. H. Albaugh, in his paper read before the American nurserymen at Chicago, said he found cotton warp better than bass bark as a ligature in budding, particularly for cherries. It draws the bud firmly and snugly into position, and retains it securely without any danger of becoming loose.

To make five gallons of brilliant stucco whitewash for buildings, inside and out, take six quarts of clean lumps of well burnt stone lime, slack with hot water in a covered tub to keep in the steam. It should then be passed through a fine sieve to obtain the flower of lime; add one-fourth of a pound of burnt alum pulverized, one pound of sugar, three pints of rice flour, made into a thin, well-boiled starch or jelly, and one pound of glue, dissolved in hot water. This may be applied cold on inside work, but for outside work it should be applied warm. A whitewash thus made is said to be more brilliant than plaster of paris, and to retain its brilliancy many years. It should be put on with a common painter's brush, a second coat being applied after the first is well dried. The east end of the White House at Washington was formerly painted with this composition.