

So far the show of horses was encouraging, and in some classes, such as weight-carrying hunters, remarkably good. With, again, Cavendish first, and Neville anywhere else they choose to put him, the third offer of the thoroughbred hundred would have quite reached its aim; and many of the young riding-horses were commendable. In fact, this section of the show is manifestly improving; whereas, if we are to take Worcester as the test, the agricultural horses are as palpably retrograding, for it is many years since so small or so poor a lot of draught-horses have been brought together under the auspices of the Royal Society. Try them by almost any class of breed you would, and they were alike wanting in numbers and merit. Possibly the Hamburg Meeting operated in some degree against the Worcester, and travellers do assure us that the Brewer and the Clyde horses exhibited on the continent would have been a decided acquisition to our show of last week. The best of the open class, Black Prince, is a heavy, useful animal of great power, and active for his size, but still with no extraordinary merit about him; while the Clydesdale, placed second, is a far truer made horse, and deservedly in general favour with the public; so much so that the judges must surely have had some peculiar reasons of their own for not ranking him higher. The choice of all the draught-horses, however, was Young John Bull, the dray horse, and a very fine illustration of the sort required; of good size, great power, active and handsome, and a long way before the others of his class in all the essential points of appearance and character; although, perhaps, it was hardly fair to try Mr. Neale's smartish three-year-old by the side of the aged and thoroughly-furnished animal. The selected brace of two-year-old dray-horses won against little competition; the other class of two-year-old fillies resulting in no entry, and the mares and foals in but a single nomination, of no apparent merit in either mother or child, and scarcely worthy on any consideration of a Royal first. But it was in the special class of the Suffolks that the falling-off in the cart-horse classes was more particularly observable, only one aged stallion being sent to compete for two premiums, and one mare and foal to keep him in countenance in the companion class. Of these Duke could never have the ghost of a chance at one of his own native shows; but Sir Edward Kerrison's Bragg is of a far higher stamp, being a grand mare all over; a royal winner before now, and the second of her class at the Ipswich meeting a few weeks since. Mr. Ward's fine filly was again first, and May-bird had also a place at home, as well as here, though at the best but a light one to look on. Over the two-year-old colts Mr. Barthropp must have been clearly outvoted, as handsome Young Emperor has now to give way to Mr. Mumford's more useful colt, the award the other day showing a preference for fashion—a point in which Young Duke is

singularly deficient. A variety of reasons were offered for the short show of chesnuts, in such woful comparison with the imposing entry of last year at Battersea, prominent amongst which was the want of railway accommodation; the authorities only agreeing to take stock free one way, on the homeward journey, and even then the horses would have to travel in cattle trucks, or the full fare be charged to and fro. It is, though, very clear that the Suffolks must come again in more force, or the class will necessarily drop through. There was some complaint of the cart-horses being calked; but Professor Varnell, who performed his duties with an ability and good taste, upon which we can honestly compliment him, reports very favourably on the heavy classes, as indeed he does of the horse show, in regard to the important matter of soundness. In the open class of cart-horses there was only one roarer; neither were flat feet nor other defects very numerous. Of the dray stallions there was again but one roarer, but more tendency to flat brittle fore feet; while the Suffolks were remarkably exempt from all diseases, their feet being very good, and the chief failing of the chesnuts a tendency to smallness below the knee. The Professor's report is, in fact, an address of congratulation on the absence of hereditary diseases amongst all other classes of horses, especially the sires, be they race-horses, hunters, ponies, or cart-horses; a gratifying result which he very fairly attributes to the preliminary examination now insisted upon, and that one or two very active members of the Council have done every thing in their power to abolish ever since so wholesome a system was first instituted. It is said, indeed, that one man still threatens an annual motion on the subject!

Professor Simonds was enabled to report as favourably of the freedom of the cattle from disease, as his brother professor of the horses; but amongst the pigs there were many qualifications, attributable, however, rather to the trickery of the exhibitors than to any actual ill in the animals themselves. These were entered under, or even over their proper age, just as it suited, and ingenious were the devices adopted to make up a prize pen of sow and pigs. The Yorkshiremen were the chief offenders, but one well-known breeder from the Eastern Counties was also found, to use the mild phrase of the inspector, to be extremely "careless" about the due record of weeks and months, and he suffered accordingly. The show on the whole, was a fair one, though by no means generally good, the great feature of the different divisions being the Berkshires, which came again in immense force, and furnished the best entry of this breed ever yet brought together. The sow class was generally commended; whilst, beyond the capital pigs of Messrs. Hewer, Sadler, Hitchman, and others, these classes were materially strengthened by Mr. Joyce, of Waterford, whose Berkshires we have so often had to commend in our