

The Exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

THE annual show of this great national society was held this year in Plymouth, during the third week of July, and embraced more especially the district comprehending Devonshire, Dorset, Somerset and Cornwall, thus taking in the entire south-west corner of England. In a country of comparatively small extent, abounding in railways, canals, and the best common roads, the articles brought into competition at the Royal Agricultural Show of England, are collected more or less from all parts of the country, even as far north as Scotland, and occasionally as far west as Ireland; but of course the great bulk of the material constituting the show is furnished by the district in which the exhibition takes place, consisting of some half dozen counties. A show therefore in the south-west angle of England, as in the present year, or in the south-east, as in Canterbury in 1860, must necessarily be more restricted in the number of animals and articles exhibited, and also of visitors, than when such gatherings take place in more central and populous situations. But as the main object of the society in its annual perambulations is not so much to make money by increased admission fees, as to improve the agricultural practices of the country at large, it accordingly visits, in rotation, some principal city in each of the districts into which the council has divided the country for this particular purpose, a plan very similar to the one proposed by our own Provincial Association.

The Plymouth show, as from its situation might be anticipated, was much smaller, in every department, than is usual at the Society's exhibitions in the more central and populous parts of England. But, as compared with Newcastle, in the extreme north of England, where the Society held its show last year, Plymouth does not appear to have fallen much short, particularly in machinery and implements, a department that was well filled up with articles of very superior quality. At Newcastle, last year, the entries in the cattle classes, exclusive of those for the local committee's special prizes, numbered 361; for Plymouth the number is 339, showing a loss of 52. The entries for the local prizes of the latter, however, were 32, as compared with twenty for the former. The following table will afford the reader some more definite idea of the relative numbers belonging to the principal breeds of cattle:

SHORTHORNS.			
1864.		1865	
Males ..	95	Males ..	51
Females ..	50	Females ..	51
Total ..	145	Total ..	102
HEREFORDS.			
Males ..	18	Males ..	21
Females ..	24	Females ..	29
Total ..	42	Total ..	50
DEVONS.			
Males ..	11	Males ..	28
Females ..	33	Females ..	45
Total ..	44	Total ..	73

At Plymouth there was a large and fine assortment of Channel Island cattle, usually designated Alderneys; and also a number of other local breeds, both of cattle and sheep for which special prizes were provided by the locality. But it would appear that there was but little in these departments that possessed much general interest.

The *North British Agriculturist* observes:—"In the cattle classes the best represented breeds, in point of number, are the Devon and Channel Island breeds. In the sheep classes the Leicester is best represented both in numbers and quality, while next in merit are the Shropshires and Southdowns. The various breeds of horses are indifferently represented. In the thoroughbred class, indeed, there is only one horse competing for two prizes, one of £160 and another of £25.

SHORTHORNS.

These, the most valuable of the English breeds of cattle, were not brought out in any great numbers in the several classes. The animals shown were generally superior; but there was an absence of animals of very distinguished merit. Compared with that at Newcastle, the show of bulls was meagre as to num-

bers, and none of the animals exhibited were equal in merit to the prize bulls "Forth" and "Royal Butterfly 11th." In the aged class—six animals being entered and five exhibited—the first prize bull "Lord Chancellor," bred by the late Jonas Webb, and purchased at his sale by the present exhibitor, at the sum of 400 guineas, is of red colour, aged 4 years and 1 month. He is the best in his class; and although he has never hitherto been successfully exhibited at the Royal, he has taken a number of prizes at local shows, while this year he won at the Bath and West of England. The second prize was awarded to "Favourite" (19,727) exhibited by Mr. Bolitho of Trewidden. This bull is a year younger than the first prize one, and has several very good points. Colour roan, hair and touch good. The third prize was awarded to "Holwood," a roan, exhibited by Mr. Coryton of Pentliffe Castle. The brown spots of this bull are so dark that few breeders would use him for breeding Shorthorns. Neither the first nor second in this class have pedigrees of any repute. In the class for bulls above two and not exceeding three years there were six entries. The first prize was awarded to "Duke of Devonshire," a somewhat small, plain animal, colour red with a little white, exhibited by Mr. Ford, of Luson; the second prize going to "Baron Blencow," a white bull which has acquired some notoriety in the showyard in Yorkshire, and which ought to have been placed first in his class. The third prize went to "Knight of North Essex," shown by Mr. Claydon of Littlebury. Bulls above one and not exceeding two years old were a superior class, four or five animals of great merit competing. The first prize was awarded to a very perfect animal, colour roan, aged one year and ten months, shown by Mr. Fawkes, of Farnley Hall—generally a very successful exhibitor in the bull classes. The second prize was awarded to "Commander-in-Chief," bred by the late Richard Booth, and exhibited by Mr. Thomas Booth, of Warlaby. His age is one year and one month, consequently he is nine months younger than the first prize bull. Had there not been such a difference in point of age, the judges might have had considerable difficulty in placing the animals. Both animals are very well brought out. Bull calves was also a very good class, there being fifteen entries and three absences. The first prize was awarded to "Friar Bacon," exhibited by the breeder, Mr. Fawkes. "Friar Bacon" is own brother to "Friar Jack," the first prize bull in the yearling class. In the calf class the second place was awarded to "Corporal," shown by the exhibitor, Sir Anthony de Rothschild, Bart. "Plymouth Candidate," exhibited by the breeder, Mr. Garne, of Churchill Heath, was placed third. In this class Mr. Thomas Booth exhibited two very good calves, aged eight and nine months respectively, both bred by the late Mr. Richard Booth. These calves were not in very high condition.

The female classes of the Shorthorns are all good, indeed, nearly the whole of the animals may be said to be very superior. The best class is that of the yearlings, although the class for cows above three years has seldom been surpassed at any meeting of the Royal Society. In this class there were ten entries. The first prize was awarded to "Corriane," five years old, bred and exhibited by Mr. Wood, of Stanwick Park. The second place was gained by "Diamant," bred by the exhibitor, Mr. Richard Stratton, of Walls Court. The third prize was awarded to "Elegant," shown by Mr. Sharpe, Courtlands, the exhibitor of the first prize aged bull. Of heifers in milk or in calf, not exceeding two years old, there were six entries of good animals. The first prize was awarded to "Lady Fragrant," bred by the late Richard Booth, and exhibited by Thomas Booth. She is unquestionably the best animal in any of the Shorthorn class—tall, level, and extremely handsome, aged two years and four months, girthing at Warlaby eight feet. She has had seven calves, six heifers, and one bull. In 1861 she had three calves, and at the present time she is half gone in calf. The second prize was awarded to "Charlotte 4th," shown by Mr. Logan, of Maidney House, a somewhat celebrated breeder. The third prize went to "Lady Rosalea," shown by the breeder Lady Pigot. This heifer has been exhibited seventeen times, and has been awarded thirteen first prizes, two seconds, one third, and three challenge cups as the best female in the yard. There were twenty-four yearling heifers exhibited, forming a very superior class, and remarkable for general excellence. The first place was rightly assigned to "Princess," shown by the breeder, Lord Feversham. She is, for her age, a remarkably well-developed animal. The second place went to "Miss Farwell," purchased when a month old, for fifty guineas, at Colonel Townley's sale, and shown by Mr. Tennant, of Sarcroft Lodge, Leeds. The third prize was awarded to "Chloilde," a red and white heifer, shown by the breeder, Mr. Wood, of Stanwick Park. Taking into account the limited numbers shown, and excluding the class of old bulls, the Shorthorn has been seldom exhibited to greater advantage than at Plymouth.

HEREFORDS.

The Herefords are somewhat limited in number, doubtless from Plymouth being so distant from the home of the race. The best classes are the yearling heifers and heifer calves. In the class for aged bulls there are five entries—the first prize being awarded to "Peremptory," shown by the breeder, Mr. Read, of Elkstone. The second place was awarded to "Chieftain the Second," which was placed first at the Bath and West of England Show. The third prize went to "Battersea," shown by Mr. Baldwin of Luddington.

There were three bulls, above two and not exceeding three years. The first place was assigned to "Commodore," exhibited by the breeder, Mr. Duckham, of Bay-sham Court, editor of the "Hereford Herd Book."

Of yearling bulls there were six entries. The first prize went to Mr. Paramore, of Dinedor Court; the second to Mr. Wright, of Halston Hall; and the third to Mr. Tudge, of Adforton—a well-known breeder.

In the class for cows above three years old there were seven entries—the first prize going to Mr. Baldwin of Luddington; the second, to Mr. Walker of Westfield House, for a large framed cow, red colour, with a yellow tinge—long looked upon in Herefordshire as an indication of rapidly acquiring flesh.

Of heifers in calf not exceeding three years old, there were four exhibited—the first prize being awarded to one shown by Mr. Baldwin, Luddington; the second to Mr. George Pitt, of Chadnor Court. Yearling heifers were a remarkably good class, there being eleven entries. All the animals were either placed or commended. The first place went to Mr. Wright, Halston Hall, and the second to Mr. Monkhouse, for a heifer that was first as a calf at Newcastle, and third at the Bath and West of England meeting. Mr. Philip Turner's heifer was placed third. The breeders of Herefords are entitled to great praise for having brought their animals such a long distance to the Plymouth Show—some of them having come 300 miles. The Hereford cattle, generally owned by tenant farmers, have been greatly improved within the last ten years, breeders now bestowing considerable attention upon pedigree.

DEVONS.

This, one of the oldest of the established English breeds of cattle was shown in great numbers—total eighty-five—and many of the animals were of very superior quality. The judges evidently took size as well as symmetry into account in the placing of the animals, and in this respect acted wisely. The most successful exhibitors were Mr. Sobey, of Trewolland, Cornwall; Viscount Falmouth; Mr. Turner, of Beacon Downs, Exeter; Mr. Taylor, of Harptree Court, Somerset; Mr. Quarity, of Southampton; and Major-General Hood for Her Majesty.

The reporter of the *Irish Farmers' Gazette*, in reference to this class observes:—"The aged bulls were of the most massive proportions, but maintaining the most perfect symmetry—so much so, that the whole class was generally commended. The two-year old bulls were, for the most part, equally good, and so were the yearlings of which the whole class was commended; and we don't think a finer lot than the dozen that composed this lot were ever exhibited at any show. The bull calves were also excellent, and no disgrace to their sires and dams, whose place they are destined to occupy some years hence."

The Sussex cattle were in small numbers, arising in great measure from the distance of their limited locality from Plymouth. There were, however, a few good specimens of this breed, which was originally derived from the Devon, to which they have close general resemblance, being however coarser and larger, and furnishing very strong oxen, the best workers, perhaps, of any breed.

THE SHEEP.

The Leicesters never turned out in finer style; there were 50 shearing rams, 26 aged rams, and 8 pens of five each of shearing ewes. We noticed a couple of pens in the aged class disqualified for unfair shearing, and we wish sincerely that the same rule was put in force with the short wools, which, excellent as they undoubtedly were, had too much about them of what Mr. Beale Browne designates sculpture. The Cotswolds as a class were excellent, and have fully maintained their credit at this grand show. The rams were fine and the ewes superb, the Lincoln rams were also very fine, but we thought the shearing ewes, though nice, below the standard as to size. The Oxford Downs were good, but we scarcely think them up to the mark of those shown at Worcester. The south Downs were just as compact and lovely as we have ever seen this nice breed of sheep anywhere; the rams made their appearance in goodly numbers. Lord Walsingham taking all the prizes in shearing rams, and the first and second in