

These, however, are points that would often be difficult to estimate, and therefore we look upon it that putting before the world the weight of roots that may be grown by the use of good seed and artificial manures is a matter worthy of encouragement.

No less so is the offering of prizes for the best dozen or so of the best different kind of roots, whether of mangels, swedes or common turnips, which affords no exact evidence of the state of the root crop in the farm or garden, yet if form or quality or trueness to sort be taken into consideration, a root show may be made highly instructive, and besides, exhibitors and visitors have an opportunity of comparing roots from a distance, and of seeing what may be occasionally attained to.

But perhaps the greatest good that such exhibitions do is to be found in the fact that the roots sent will, of course, be choice specimens from different parts of the country, and, if these be made use of for the growth of seed, we cannot conceive of a better way of improving root growth, and thus of benefiting both the seedsman and the farmer; but in awarding these prizes, though much may be said for size and weight, yet form and correctness to a specified sort are of still more importance. If, then, attention be paid to all these points, one root shown may serve a great purpose, as there is no doubt but that roots are to be bred like animals; and in the one case as in the other, a good strain can only be attained and efficiently maintained by care and attention.

But, further, these shows may be made useful by the introduction of new sorts; to this end prizes should be offered for any new sort of root, or any new introduction of a feeding plant capable of taking the position which roots occupy at present, or of subserving the same purposes on the farm as do roots.

We hope, therefore, that these exhibitions will be encouraged, for if they only tend to indicate the tack and advance the knowledge of what is desired with regard to roots, a great deal of good will be effected by their means.

A terrific gale, which raged over a great part of Scotland and England in October caused an immense amount of destruction of trees and glass houses, and other property.—The Scottish Arboricultural Society held its 21st annual meeting at Edinburgh, on 4th and 5th November.—A school of horticulture will be opened at Versailles on 1st December.—Great preparations are being made for the Centennial Exhibition to be held in the city of Philadelphia in 1876. United States officials are exerting themselves, all over the world, to secure representation of the products and industries of every land.—

The Secretary of the New South Wales Agricultural Society writes to the Department at Washington:

We are now engaged in securing the co-operation of all the colonies of the Australian group in obtaining from the Centennial Commission of the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876 sufficient space to represent at the great centennial gathering the undeniable proof of the immense natural resources of this territory.

AMERICAN SHORT-HORNS IN ENGLAND.

MR. CHENEY'S SALE.

The following remarks, from a condensed Report in the *Live Stock Journal*, embrace some points suggestive to our farmers. They are written in a sort of cattle-talk style, but will be intelligible, we hope, to most of our readers:

The average is beyond precedent, even when Holker and Underley "block the way" to the public's faculty of astonishment—£554 odd each for nineteen females, mostly calves, would have electrified breeders only ten years ago. This sale was the first occasion on which the offspring of the recent re-importation of fashionable Short-horn blood from beyond the Atlantic constituted the main feature of the day, twenty-four out of twenty-seven lots being by bulls bred in America, and in eleven instances the dams were imported too. This fact could not but provoke comparison with cattle offered at other auctions of Short-horns.

There would probably be various opinions as to the position this collection (now dispersed) is entitled to hold. But it seems to us impossible to deny that (among the heifers especially) there was great beauty, and substantial merit too; and also that, as a rule, the bull calves were, though stylish and of good color and hair, inferior as a lot to their sisters. The sire (9th Duke of Geneva) being himself red and white, this color was general; and it takes a far better shaped animal to look well in a parti-colored jacket, than it does to cut a good figure in a whole red, or in a whole white, or in the universally admired roan coating. What may be called "Ketton colors" (white patches on the face and over the hips, white under the belly and between the fore legs, and up to the hocks of the hind ones) were displayed on the larger part of the lots for sale. Those that were red or roan were generally most admired, and the objects of strongest competition. It is a curious feature of this bull's getting, that, if put twice in succession to the same cow, the second produce is smarter than the first. Witness the two offspring of 13th Lady of Oxford, of

Seraphina 22nd, and of Old Princess (from Wolviston, who (an exception to the rule), though English bred and born, contributed four of the most sought-for animals of the day in two daughters, a son and grandson. It is plain the Bates men are beginning to consider (as their prototype did before them) that a Princess introduction is a desirable innovation to the usual sequence of Duchess or Red Rose bulls. One day, perhaps, it may come to be admitted that the Gwynne bulls are likely to be of service among Bates cattle, just as the heifers of the tribe have long been accounted among the most useful members of the Bates herds whenever the sale of bull calves is a frequent occurrence.

One and all displayed that every care had been taken of them; while good land to graze on, and to give quality to the hay and corn, had put within the reach of their manager great advantages, and these had been liberally used. It transpired that lot 1, as given in the catalogue (a four-year-old Duchess cow), had calved and lost her calf, and in consequence she was withdrawn from the sale, and her dam substituted in her place. This cow (said to have cost \$10,000 in America) was heavy in calf, and when she made her appearance in the ring, there was—after a little talk and some fencing as to who should begin—a first bid of a thousand guineas. The cow was somewhat leggy, but with good head, ribs and color, and she readily ran up to 1,700 guineas; there she stayed, and the buyer's name was declared to be Mr. McIntosh, of Havering Park, near Romford. The Waterloo cow was on a short leg, and somewhat short herself, and of a curious color (with white face, recalling a Strawberry Hereford, or "Buchan Hero" in an early volume of the *Herd Book*). This, with her heifer calf, seemed cheaper than most lots, for the tribe is an admirable one with any crossing. The red heifer of this descent (lot 11), was about the smartest animal shown—substance, form, color, hair and head all being good. Princess of Geneva was put up at 200 guineas, and ran briskly up to 860 guineas—a price quite warranted by her own looks and that of her son (3rd Earl of Leicester), who, although not quite straight at present, was on a very short leg, and had beautiful hair and style, and should do good service to his new owner; she was half gone in calf again to her own sire. Her sister (not served) was fiercely fought over, and Mr. Sheldon, in getting her, got one of the best animals in the sale. The Seraphina pair were worthy of their relationship to Lord Sudeley's Seraphina Bella 2nd. (the heifer calf *præ excellence* of 1873, being very shapely, and thick to boot.