

nature that pigs should make more economical gains through the milk of the dams than in any other way, and it is also true that the sow will furnish nourishment for her young at less cost for the raw material than any other animal on the farm. A sow's milk is rich in solid matter, which amounts to 17 to 20 per cent. On a comparative basis of 1,000 pounds live weight, a cow giving three gallons of milk a day will give in the milk 1 pound of fat, and .77 pounds of protein daily, while a sow's milk will yield 1.26 pounds of fat and 1.1 pounds of protein a day on an average. In composition, sow's milk, in comparison with cow's milk, is very high in total fats, as well as solids.—[From Coburn's "Swine in America."

Our Scottish Letter.

GREAT CATTLE SALES.

The past four weeks have witnessed unusual activity in the live-stock markets of the British Isles. Bull sales have been held at the great centers, and remarkable prices have in cases been realized. The demand generally has been very wholesome and healthy. While all the breeds have sold well enough, Shorthorns have easily maintained the lead. In fact, the red, white and roan were never more popular than now. The highest price paid at these spring sales stands at the credit of Birmingham, where the red bull, Shenley Banner, shown by Mr. Raphael, made 1,000 gs., his buyer being Dan. MacLennan, a noted purchaser for the South American market. Mr. Raphael got an average of £204 16s. for twelve bulls. Mr. Leopold de Rothschild got an average of £257 19s. for eleven. The total sum realized for Shorthorns at Birmingham in three days was £26,200. Alongside such figures as these, all other breeds in this country must take a secondary place to the Shorthorn. The demand for whole-colored reds or roans for Argentine export is something phenomenal. Good prices are handsomely paid, and when shapes, pedigree and color combine to meet the Argentine ideal, everybody seems delighted. The great Scots sale of Shorthorns was held at Perth, when 86 females realized £30 5s. 4d. of an average. Augusta 125th, a yearling heifer, bred in Ireland, topped this section of the sale at 220 gs. The Augusta race was reared by the late James Bruce, of Inverquhomery, one of the most enlightened of the Aberdeenshire Shorthorn breeders. He believed in them all the time, but it was not until he had passed away that their vogue really began. At present, an Augusta or a Broadhook makes quite as good money as a Clipper. We rather think they have the advantage of the Clippers in respect of fertility and milk production. Very fine trade was experienced at Perth. Congalton Baron, bred by Joseph Lee, Congalton, Drem, East Lothian, made 850 gs. Strowan Archduke II., bred by Captain Graham Sterling, of Strowan, made 780 gs. These were first-prize winners. Balnakyle Marmion, bred by C. M. Cameron, Balnakyle, Munlochy, Ross-shire, a second-prize winner, made 400 gs.; and King of the Mint, another second-prize winner, bred by Duncan Stewart, of Millhills, Crief, made 650 gs. The Balnakyle first-prize group of three made an average of £215 5s., and Mr. Stewart's lot of two from Millhills made an average of £635 5s. Congalton, all together, sold four, at an average of £260 13s. 3d., and Strowan sold four at £223 7s. 9d. All together, 301 Shorthorn bulls were sold at Perth, at an average of £53 4s. 3d., as against 279 at the same sale last year, at an average of £43 13s. 6d. This is a remarkable result, and is indicative of a substantial growth in the demand for Scots Shorthorns. There is a poor demand for any other kind. William Anderson, Saphock, Old Meldrum, one of the tenant-farmer breeders of Aberdeenshire, sold five young bulls at Perth at an average of £150 3s. Sales of Shorthorns were also held at Inverness and Aberdeen. At the former center, 106 head, of which all but two were bulls, made an average of £20 19s. 2d., and at Aberdeen, 214 bulls made an average of £24 13s. 3d.

SALES OF DODDIES.

Aberdeen-Angus cattle come next to Shorthorns in popular favor, but at present there is a long interval between the two. The best prices made for Aberdeen-Angus bulls this spring have been 300 gs., 210 gs., and 140 gs. The famous Auchorachan herd, owned by Colonel Smith-Grant, was dispersed: 39 females from it made an average of £48 18s. 4d. each, while four bulls made £64 1s. of an average. The best average for Aberdeen-Angus bulls at Perth again stands at the credit of Ballindalloch, who made £142 16s. with three. His Majesty the King, from Abergeldie Mains, made £100 3s. 3d. with five. Ernest Kerr, of Harviestown, made £64 1s. with an equal number: 494 Aberdeen-Angus bulls sold for an average of £28 15s. 4d., as compared with 394 bulls, at an average of £32 2s. 8d., in 1909; 196 females made £29 13s. 4d., a slight increase of 2s. 1d. on the figure for 1909. It is thus apparent that A.-A.'s are selling profitably, but the trade this year is wholly confined to the British Isles. Ireland was a good buyer alike for Short-

horns and Aberdeen-Angus, and the Department was also a buyer of Galloways at Castle-Douglas. There the trade showed a distinct improvement on recent figures. The best prices were 50 gs., 40 gs., and 28 gs. The best average was made by Messrs. Biggar & Sons, Chapeltown, Dalbeattie, who got £33 19s. for three. Highlanders find their headquarters at Oban. The best prices for them were £53, £50, and £35. Considerable numbers were bought by the Congested Districts Board for the use of the Crofters in the West Highlands. Unfortunately, in these days of early maturity, Galloways and Highlanders are at a great disadvantage. They will not lay on flesh like the "improved" breeds, and yet this very disqualification it is which befits them for withstanding the rigorous, wet climate in which they can both live and thrive. The Irish Department finds the Galloway very suitable for County Donegal and the West of Ireland. Nothing can beat the Highlander on his own ground in the Western Isles and North-west Highlands of Scotland.

HORSE SHOWS AND SALES.

Horses have been much in evidence. The three great London Spring Shows have been held, lasting for three weeks. The Shires come first, and, as a bucolic event in the metropolis, the Shire-

pleased me. I found this opinion confirmed by others who have been much more regular in their attendance at the Shire Show than I have been. They considered the Shires at the London show ten years ago better than they are to-day.

HACKNEYS JUDGED SOLELY AS HARNESS HORSES.

Hackneys had their innings during the first week of March. The nags have fallen on evil days, so far as the misfits are concerned. The market for these is gradually disappearing. The taxi, motor and motor-bus are threatening every form of horse vehicle. Yet, in spite of it all, the Hackney of the first-class has seldom been in keener demand than at the present day. At the show there were numerous foreign buyers, and they operated to good purpose. They took one Scots-bred Hackney, which stood fourth in his class, to France, at £430, and it was said that £1,600 had been refused for one, and £2,000 for another first-prize winner, both by Mathias 6473. Whether these figures be reliable or not, there cannot be a doubt that, for good, well-bred harness sires, as much money can be got to-day as at any previous date in their history. But there is a big change in the public taste, compared with what it was ten or fifteen years ago.

Then, a Hackney of what was somewhat contemptuously termed the "harness type," was rather despised. Why, we never could make out, because to us a Hackney was either a harness horse or he was of no use whatever. To talk about him as a saddle horse, and to judge him from saddle shoulders, as some men did, was the finest burlesque. Now the harness type is the only one men look at, and rightly so. The sires that matter are those which breed harness horses, and among these two stand out conspicuous—Polonius and Mathias, sons of the only London Hackney champion mare worth speaking about, the great Ophelia. Nearly all the best harness horses at the show were got by these two horses, and, as a sire of stock to go in leather, Polonius seems simply invincible. The champion mare, Adbolton St. Mary, was also champion in 1909. She was bred by her owner, A. W. Hickling, Adbolton, Nottingham, and takes a deal of beating. She led the "simple life" until last year, and, no doubt, this had a deal to do with her supreme bloom and cleanness of joints and limbs. For the sixth time out of seven in which he competed for it, the supreme championship for stallions was won by F. W. Buttle, Kirk-



"Oh, for a Wife to Thread My Needle!"

burn, Driffield, a Yorkshire farmer. His exhibit this time was Kirkburn Toreador, a horse which I do not very much love, yet he seemed about the best one shown. He was bred in Scotland, and was got by Mr. Buttle's great champion horse, Rosador. This week (ending March 12th) it has been the turn of the Thoroughbreds, Hunters and Polo Ponies. In some respects this is the most important show of the three, and yet it is the least interesting, and, as a spectacle, of no consequence at all. Its importance lies in its relation to the question of a national horse supply during times of war. It is distinctly the Riding Horse Show. Tuesday was devoted to the judging of Thoroughbred stallions; Wednesday and Thursday were devoted to Hunters; Friday was the Pony day, and was patronized by the Queen and other representatives of the Royal family. It is generally understood that the Government mean to do something for the promotion of horse-breeding along these riding lines. Action is urgently required. The horse markets of this country are being scoured by foreign agents, who are determined to have what they want. Price never

show week for the English farmer ranks second only to the Smithfield Club show week. Indeed, the Shire week is more exclusively bucolic than Smithfield. At the latter the hall is thronged with the nobility, tenant-farmers, and city and suburban crowds. It is an amazing sight, and typical of the hold which agriculture has taken on British life. But, during the Shire week, it is the English farmer who is in evidence, with his women-folks. "John Bull" can there be studied in the original, and he is not at all an unworthy object. No doubt, "John" is a bit bumptious. He takes himself very seriously, but in the main he is by no means a bad sort. About his horses—well, they are disappointing. Judging by this year's exhibition, I could not say that the Shire year is improving. The champion horse, Gaer Conqueror 25218, a five-year-old, owned by Mr. Grandage, Bramhope, Leeds, is a big, coarse animal, not at all evenly in his merit. A Scotsman's eye is not trained to fancy such, and possibly the point of view is everything. Still, there have been Shires in the past about which a Clydesdale man could become enthusiastic, but I never attended a show of Shires at which I saw fewer that really