

Judges in pronouncing their award, will keep this object in view.

We conceive Lord Elgin to be most happy in his selection of a subject for a prize. The question of canals in relation to an agricultural country is but little understood, yet it is a question of all others, situated as we are, that should be thoroughly comprehended by every body. We have no doubt that the handsome sum given by his Excellency will cause such a treatise to be laid before the public as will convey to them the required information.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

The cattle show and exhibition of implements, under the auspices of this important society, took place this year, at Norwich, during the third week of July. From the accounts which have reached us, we are led to conclude that the recent exhibition has in no essential points been inferior to its predecessors, and in some departments, particularly in the number of agricultural implements and machines, it appears to have been superior to any previous shows.

The show yards were placed at a distance of two miles to the south of the city, on a level space well adapted for the purpose, and commanding a wide prospect of the surrounding country. They cover the immense extent of 11 acres, and, being symmetrically arranged in parallel sheds, and approached through a long avenue of booths erected to provide every variety of refreshment and amusement for visitors: the effect produced by such a vast encampment is not unsuitable to the idea of a great Agricultural Fete Champetre. From year to year, the implement yard has shown a remarkable increase, and from the following table it will be seen that in this department the society has shown far stronger and more vigorous signs of vitality than in that of stock:

Year of Meeting.	Locality.	Entries of Stock.	Entries of Implements.
1839	Oxford	249	23
1840	Cambridge	352	36
1841	Liverpool	319	312
1842	Bristol	510	445
1843	Derby	730	508
1844	Southampton	575	918
1845	Shrewsbury	437	912
1846	Newcastle	613	785
1847	Northampton	459	1,321
1848	York	724	1,508

The immense number of implements which have been exhibited for the last few years, the large space which they necessarily occupy, and the expense which the society incurs in providing room for them, has attracted to this subject not only the serious attention of the council, but of all the friends of agricultural improvement. It has been observed that at each succeeding exhibition this department degenerates more and more from the character of an "exposition," and approaches to that of a bazaar. The great implement makers,

encouraged by the facilities of carriage afforded them, send an overflowing number of articles, and fill the sheds of the yard with a dreadful array of scarifiers, clod-crushers, pulverizers, and other instruments, not more formidable in name than in appearance. Not content with one specimen of each kind, they have perhaps two or three of different sizes, and with some slight variation in structure to make them admissible. The idea of exhibiting new inventions or the best forms of indispensable implements—an idea absolutely necessary to be kept strictly in view where prizes are awarded—is of course lost sight of. The humble but ingenious mechanic sees his little stall overwhelmed by a wholesale array of articles beside it; and the great manufacturer has reason to complain that, having gone to a large expense, and done all in his power to extend the taste for the application of mechanical skill to the operations of husbandry, he is rewarded with a few paltry medals, and the empty honour of a public exhibition, necessarily excluding that test of practical experience by which alone the substantial support of the farming interest can be won. In this state of things many of the most influential implement makers ask for the society to do away with its prizes, and to allow them to exhibit their manufactures to the public in such a manner that they may be seen in operation, and that ample time may be given for the inspection. The society, on the other hand, are anxious to adhere to the old system, and perceiving that the implement yard is outgrowing their means of accommodation, they are anxious to impose a ground charge on exhibitors, to require from them a plan of the mode in which they intend furnishing their stalls, and to adopt such other checks as may be necessary to meet the evils of the present system. How the question will be decided it is at present impossible to say, but the permanent interests of the society and of agricultural improvement generally are largely involved in the prompt determination of it.

Of the great show of implements at this meeting, it may be truly said that a more important collection of agricultural machines never before was assembled together in one yard. It is true that there are perhaps fewer novelties than usual, but there are much fewer absurdities—far less indications of desperate attempts to realise crude and worthless ideas. Then, again, the workmanship displayed is of a very improving order, a result which is pretty clearly to be attributed to the great influence exerted by the meetings of this society in exciting the exertions of the implement makers on the one hand, and inducing the patronage of the farmer on the other. As the reporters of the show of implements at Liverpool very correctly remarked, (*Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society*, vol. ii. p. 103,) when tracing the connection between the advance of the implement makers' skill with the country meetings of this society:—"At their first, or Oxford meeting, there were some examples of good machinery and workmanship, but many more of rude, cumbrous, and ill-executed implements. At Liverpool, many machines were exhibited, not only of surpassing