

MANUFACTURES OF WOOD.

and find two washing machines; two "hand" churns (one of which is worked by a rocking chair attached to the side—no doubt handy for a farmer's wife with a baby but no servant); a pump; an ox yoke; four or five ploughs; four carriages, and an Express wagon.

IN THE DRILL SHED,

were the grains and seeds, all very good; though not very numerous represented; potatoes in great variety and of fine size; carrots fair; turnips fine for the season; mangold wurtzel and beets, uncommonly good; parsnips, onions, cabbage, squash and pumpkins, rather below the standard; apples good, both in variety and size; pears and plums medium; butter, with a few exceptions, below what it should be; cheese, fair; woollen goods, a fine show, especially in shawls, hearth-rugs, &c.; harness, two single sets, average; boots and shoes, from the Truro factory, good. These, with a single trunk, half-a-dozen pictures, and a few flowers, were the principal articles inside. They were for the most part neatly arranged. In short, we may state that the arrangement throughout was very satisfactory to both the exhibitors and the spectators, and reflects much credit on the Committee and the promoters, as well as upon the county and province.

THE BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF PIGS.

At a recent monthly meeting of the Stowmarket Club. [*Agricult. Gazette, L'm'on, Jan. 7, 1871*], Mr. Stearn read a paper on the breeding and management of pigs. Formerly large breeders and graziers thought the pig beneath their notice; but the thing was changing, for he supplied gentlemen in Australia, America, and almost all parts of the world. Still he was often both disgusted and surprised to see what a disgraceful lot of pigs was still kept by many large agriculturists as well as small ones, such as, if kept to any extent, would ruin any one, for they ate an enormous quantity of food, and would neither grow nor fatten upon it. He had studied the management of pigs for the last 39 years, and had found that the better the attention paid to them the greater the profit, and if a person wishes to make a pig pay, it must be kept well when young, and not allowed to run 12 months in almost a starving condition.

Speaking of piggeries, he must say he seldom saw a good one. Some were badly ventilated, others low and damp, nine-tenths too small, some too confined, with no means of altering them between summer and winter, and many had the cisterns to receive the wash, &c., from the house inside them, which was very bad, the constant stench injuring the health of the animals, and was most unpleasant to those who had to attend to them. But the worst sties were those with wooden floors laid over a pit, which became full of unwholesome rubbish. He had said he was surprised at the pigs kept by many persons; but he did not know if he ought to wonder so very much, when he took into consideration the general construction of places in which they were kept. If there were one corner on the premises worse than another, there the pigsty was placed, and people almost wanted marsh boots to get to it. There was no question that it would be a great boon to the

tenant-farmers if landlords would take more interest in providing better buildings for the pigs. It was not the most expensive place that was the best, but what was required was a simple, economical, well-situated, and well-planned piggery. Some built expensive brick and stone buildings, which he had proved were not so healthy as a boarded building, tiled and slated, it should be reeded and plastered underneath to prevent the heat of the sun penetrating in summer and the cold in winter, with a ventilator at the top made to open and shut. There should be half-doors. The farrowing pen ought to be large, to give the sow plenty of room, and to admit of rails being placed round the side, so fixed as to prevent the sow lying on the little ones. These rails should be made to shift according to the size of the sow, from 8 to 12 inches high, and extending about 9 inches from the wall, having the supports carried out sloping from the rail to the wall, instead of straight from the floor, so as to leave plenty of space for the pigs to pass between the sow and the wall. Since he had used these farrowing rails he had hundreds of pigs, and had lost scarcely any from being crushed, whilst taking an average of the country nearly half were lost from that cause. Each pen should be 8 feet by 10 feet, and the best floor was asphalt or concrete. Boards could not be healthy, for if placed close the moisture stands, and the floor becomes saturated, and if a space be left the refuse litter goes between, so that it will become a mass of putrid matter, likely to bring on all kinds of diseases. In cold weather asphalt or concrete was too cold for very young pigs, and he had fake lattice floors to lay down. These were taken up when required, and everything swept from underneath. He had the beds attended to, and fresh littered every morning, for the cleaner a place was kept the better the pigs thrived. The floors were washed down occasionally, and everything ran off, the asphalt or concrete soon drying. Another advantage of such floors was, that they did not take more than two-thirds of the straw required for any other floor, for the moisture seemed to run under the litter without wetting it so much, the floor being laid a little on the slope. The litter from the pens served for the pounds outside, which ought to be paved in some way, to prevent the pigs rooting. A tank should be placed just outside to receive the drainage from the pounds, the building being troughed to take off the rain-water. The manure was thus made regular and good. On the hot days such a piggery was cool and pleasant by opening the lower doors. Lattice slips were put to all the lower doors to prevent the pigs getting out. While pigs were perfectly cool in this model piggery, the herdsmen had to go round several times in the day to all the other places with a watering-pot to keep them alive.

In selecting pigs for breeding, great attention should be given to choosing a good breed that would come to early maturity, for that was where the profit was gained, and the better the quality of the breed the less food was required to bring them to that maturity. He considered no other breed so well adapted for most localities as the black and white Suffolks. The improvement took place not before it was wanted, for a worse animal could not be found than the old Suffolk pig, with its long thin snout, large lap ears, arched back, long legs, thin body, coarse, bristly

hair, thick, long, straight tail—in fact, with everything to make it a disgusting-looking brute. When he read a paper on "Swine," a few years since he said he did not like black pigs so well as white, but by judicious crossing they have become equal to the white, and he now had scarcely a preference. They were similar in form and symmetry, and both came to early maturity, and fattened to a great weight with a small quantity of food in proportion to that weight. In choosing the boar and sow of the Suffolk breed, the chief points were a rather small head, with wide, heavy chaps, short snout, broad deep chest, ears rather small and thin, with the ends sharp and pendulous, pointing a little forward, roundness of rib, shortness of leg, and small feet, long body, the thigh well dropped close to the back, shoulders and hams thick, the neck rising well behind the ears, small bones in proportion to the flesh, broad or straight, or slightly rising back, tail small and curved and placed high, hair thin, long, fine, and silky. As much or more attention ought to be given to the boar as the sow. He preferred sows for breeding to be rather larger than the boar, and good sized animals, they being more likely to have a large number of pigs. He considered 10 or 12 sufficient in the general way to bring up. A sow for breeding should have 10 or 12 pups. He did not recommend breeding very young. The proper time for the sow to begin was from 10 to 12 months old, the boar being from eight to 12 months. It was well to cross as far distant as possible, occasionally, so as to strengthen the constitution. Some time back he purchased sows from two gentlemen, one of whom had bred in, for more than 30 years, and the other for 60. The first farrows they produced with him came out full of ulcers, the legs of most were crooked, with large spavins, and many turned out good for nothing. When wishing to make a cross, his plan was to buy a sow of a different blood, and then to fall back on his original stock, retaining, by this means, the same character without injuring the breed. The time of gestation averaged about 113 days, but old sows were rather longer than young ones. A sow in pig should have full liberty to roam about, and feed on grass in the summer, whilst in winter she should have roots of various kinds, and about three-quarters of a pint of beans per day. At the time of farrowing, the proper plan was to have a man with the sow to attend to her, as it was not wise to lose half, or perhaps the whole of the pigs, for want of a little attention at the most critical time. He also gave only a very small quantity of litter cut short, and he had a hamper placed in the pen with a little straw in the bottom, and lined with an old blanket. A partition about 2½ feet high was put across the pen to prevent the sow getting at the hamper as the pigs came out. The pigs were placed in the hamper and kept there till the sow had done farrowing. After that they were put to the sow to suck, and then put back to the hamper. The sow had then a little warm milk and bran given her, and the bed was attended to while she ate this, and the pigs were allowed to go to her again after she had finished her meal. He found that it was the cheapest and best plan to give the herdsmen 6d. each for all pigs he could bring up to a month old. As to a sow eating her young, the cause was that in some litters the side teeth were much longer and sharper than in others, so that when the pigs began