

Large White Pigs.

The distribution of the different classes of pigs, both as regards color and size, would be a curious and interesting study. When the main object is pork, bacon, or hams, and their most economical

and good nurses, good feeders, hardy, and if they do not arrive at profitable maturity as soon as the small breeds, yet they will make an amazing quantity of pork from a bountiful supply of corn. As a manufacturer of bulky corn into readily movable and merchantable product, there is nothing better, and perhaps nothing



Fig. 1.—LARGE WHITE PIGS.

equal to them, unless it be the deservedly popular Poland-China of the Western States. What was the origin of the larger white breeds, is lost in obscurity. Probably the "old English hog," which, being found most numerous in the two larger counties of England, Yorkshire and Lancashire, became more especially identified with these names, and were in later years known as either or both the Yorkshire and Lancashire hogs, was the original progenitor of all our large white breeds. At any rate, what is known as the large Yorkshire, is so much like the pigs here illustrated, that if they be not in fact the same, they may well be accepted as very near relatives. They are, in fact, portraits of

feet only, being in small part spotted with white. The form has been refined and filled out, the bone also refined, the shoulders and hams rounded and broadened, and the sides deepened, until no more handsome bacon swine now exist than these. The ears are pricked and much lessened in size, as may be seen by our illustration (fig. 2), which is from the London Field, and represents a choice specimen of the modern highly improved Berkshire pig. This animal leaves nothing to be desired in the way of a profitable pig, either for a farmer, or a feeder who keeps but one or two animals for his home supply of hams and bacon. The most conspicuous remnant of the old fashioned Berkshire, left in its



Fig. 2.—THE IMPROVED BERKSHIRE PIG.

a pair of "large white pigs," only so designated, bred by the Earl of Ellsmere, Worsley, England. And in this age of improvement, when a "dash of new blood" is considered useful or necessary to make certain desired points to perfect a hog, and breeds become rather mixed, this designation would seem to be sufficient for all purposes.

and not turned up, as in some small breeds, ears generally pricked, although drooping ears, while not desirable, are not incompatible with purity of blood; color black, with purplish tinge, and not a dead black like that of the Essex, sometimes the color shows a slaty-blush tinge, doubtless derived from crossing with the Neapolitan. The eyes

The Berkshire Swine.

Decidedly the most popular breed of swine of the present day, is the Berkshire. That it is black in color, is only an objection to those who form their opinions from prejudice rather than from knowl-

edge, as the color is not even "skin deep," and a Berkshire ham, or side of bacon, when freed from hair, is not to be distinguished from the same parts of a white pig. The Berkshire is not classed amongst the large breeds, nor can it be placed amongst the small breeds. In this respect it holds an intermediate place, though specimens occasionally reach a very respectable size, and compete favorably with the heaviest swine. No breed has undergone a more elaborate process of improvement than the Berkshire. Originally of a tawny or reddish sandy color, spotted with black, with large lop ears, hanging down over the eyes, and coarse in form and feature, the breed has been brought to a nearly entirely black color, the face, tail, and

modern relative, is the pinkish hue of the skin, which distinguishes it readily from the other black breeds, such as the Essex or the black Suffolk. Originally there were two distinct varieties of this breed, that which was wholly white, and that which was principally black. The white Berkshires we have not seen of late, nor at all in the United States, having been seen but a few of them some years ago in the yards of a Canadian breeder, who imported them. These were known as the Windsor breed, and, with the Coleshill, another white variety, still exist in England. It is, as a black breed only, that we know the Berkshire. The chief points of the breed are as follows: a moderately short head, dished face, nose straight

and the taste has very largely run to the white breeds, and we have many excellent varieties so nearly related in character, that it would be entirely safe to abandon all distinctions between them, excepting as to size, and to class them, as is now done in England, as the large and small white breeds. It would puzzle the most acute judge of swine to distinguish some small Yorkshires from some Suffolks, or to state so clearly that the wayfaring man could not be misled, wherein they differ; or to distinguish in the same way between the large Yorkshire, the improved Cheshire, the Jefferson County, or some of the Chester White swine. At the fairs, one has to hunt up the show-cards or the catalogue to discover the name given to the different animals, and it is not always certain to be one that meets the approbation of an expert in swine. The snub, retroussé nose of the Yorkshire is at home in the pen of the well fattened Cheshire, and the Chester White has the drooping ears as frequently as otherwise. Whether or not it would not both simply expedite and justify matters for the committees at the fairs to abolish all other distinctions than that here suggested, is a question we think worth attention. "Large white breed" is significant enough, and if the good points of each of the different varieties were summed up, it would be hard to find one that was not claimed by all of them, nor one fault that was not repudiated. Our illustration represents model large white pigs, and we would be content to leave those of our readers who are prejudiced in favor of any one special variety of this class of pigs, to say if this is not a good representation of what they claim their favorite breed to be. Without doubt, the large white breeds are profitable pigs. They are prolific