

HORSES AND CATTLE.

TROCAR FOR SHORTHORNS.

Present Shorthorn prices are very low alongside of those of ten years since, partly owing to aggressive competition of other worthy breeds, but mostly as a direct consequence of the degenerating influence of persistent and long-continued devotion to "pedigree." A well-informed correspondent of the *Farmer's Review* maintains that all the good native stuff in this celebrated family will not be able to save it from being "wiped out of existence by other equally valuable breeds," unless respect is paid to the principal consideration that actuates the great mass of cattle feeders—the desire for profit is beef production. Some further expressions of his are perhaps too strong, but they may serve the purpose of warning to infatuated leaders, and of timely hint to the unsophisticated:—

"The practical farmer desires to improve his stock; he looks over his agricultural paper and finds (owing to the greatness of the Shorthorn interest) seven-eighths of its cattle department filled with matters pertaining to Shorthorns, he concludes that he will get a Shorthorn bull, and sets out for the nearest breeder. Nine-tenths of the time he finds a lot of scrawny bulls, and at first is disgusted, but the proprietor will almost invariably say, 'My cattle have had little or no grain all winter,' and pointing to one of his scrawny animals, will remark, 'There is not a finer bred calf than that in this State,' and reciting the pedigree, will astonish the visitor with the prices that have been paid for the ancestors of said calf. Perhaps in the end a sale is made, and, although far from satisfied with the merit of his purchase, the farmer's mind is still consoled by the idea of the great pedigree which is attached to his calf. The result of a cross with this bull on common cows is far from satisfactory, and yet, reading time and again the value of Shorthorn bulls for grading purposes, we have known farmers to continue to allow just such bulls to be palmed off on them. Now then; having made a plain statement of facts, I desire to say to those who are about to buy bulls: When a man harangues you with a pedigree, let it pass from your mind unheeded; find an animal with a strong, vigorous constitution, ascertain that he is pure-bred and entitled to registry, and be careful to have him well developed in all points most profitable to beef animals, remembering distinctly that in the economy of production and value of product lies the profit in all farm stock."

This writer looks for "a revolution in Shorthorn breeding in ten years," and predicts that "we shall see Shorthorns on a permanent and solid basis—that is, bred for individual merit." Let us hope so. Let us hope also that the recent demonstration to the contrary in Chicago was merely a galvanic spasm of a dead craze.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

STOCK WORDS AND PHRASES.

We have often wondered that some high authority did not have something to say on the novel and often far-fetched language which is fast coming into use in connection with the cattle trade. At length this has been done. Referring to the Shorthorn nomenclature which has been invented and brought into use by "fashion-breeders," the *Mark Lane Express* observes that "to read an account of some nobleman's herd, one might often be excused for thinking some one had been giving a rather free description of the nobleman's family," and our contemporary cites a reported case where the harassed make-up editor, by a natural mistake, mixed an ornate puff of cer-

tain of these blue-blooded cattle with a report of a high-toned concert, much to the consternation of some ladies, who thus appeared in print as of "rich red colour, dappled with white," and "fin-bodied and tight-limbed." Writing of the same matter, a quietly sarcastic correspondent of the *English Agricultural Gazette* gets in the following sample point below the fifth rib of a gushing chronicler who spoke of the "sea-otter touch":

"The phrase, 'a sea-otter touch,' to convey the meaning of one who would describe the heifer's skin, is pedantic and unreal. The question to be settled by 'T.' is not whether there be such a thing as a sea-otter skin or no, but whether the people who read agricultural papers and take interest in cattle are so familiar with sea-otters and the 'feel' of their fur that a reference to it conveys any increase of enlightenment into their minds, and enables them the better to appreciate the quality of cattle."

ORIGINAL HOME OF THE HORSE.

There is no doubt that the original home of the horse is not Europe, but Central Asia; for since the horse in its natural state depends upon grass for its nourishment and fleetness for its weapon, it could not in the beginning have thriven and multiplied in the thick forest-grown territory of Europe. Much rather should its place of propagation be sought in those steppes where it still roams about in a wild state. Here, too, arose the first nations of riders of which we have historic knowledge—the Mongolians and the Turks; whose existence even at this day is, as it were, combined with that of the horse. From these regions the horse spreads in all directions, especially into the steppes of Southern and South-eastern Russia and into Thrace, until it finally found entrance into the other parts of Europe, but not until after the immigration of the people. This assumption is, at least, strongly favoured by the fact that the farther a district of Europe is from those Asiatic steppes—i.e., from the original home of the horse—the later does the tamed horse seem to have made its historic appearance in it. The supposition is further confirmed by the fact that horse-raising among almost every tribe appears as an art derived from neighbouring tribes in the East or North-east. Even in Homer the ox appears exclusively as the draught animal in land operations at home and in the field, while the horse was used for purposes of war only. Its employment in military operations was determined by swiftness alone. That the value of the horse must originally have depended on its fleetness can easily be inferred from the name which is repeated in all the branches of the Indo-European language, and signifies nearly "hastening," "quick." The same fact is exemplified by the descriptions of the oldest poets, who, next to its courage, speak most of its swiftness.—*Popular Science Monthly*.

BEEF FOR THE ENGLISH MARKET.

Mr. A. B. Matthews writes an interesting letter to the *Kansas City Commercial Indicator*, giving some of the results of his recent observations in England, particularly with regard to American beef in the Smithfield market at London. He says that one objection made to our beef is that there is too much fat in proportion to lean, and suggests as a remedy—

First, selecting animals for breeding purposes, the fat and flesh of which are well intermingled and not patchy. Second, by judicious feeding. We must use that class of feed that will produce flesh as well as fat. We use too much corn and not enough roots and grass. Cattle having free access to abundance of blue grass and fed with corn will put on flesh as well as tallow. This is

not only the way to make the best, but also the cheapest beef. Our farmers should sow more blue grass and plant less corn. Another objection to American beef is that it has more bone than the English beef. Especially is this true when compared with the polled cattle of Scotland, and it is also true when compared with the crosses, and I think it is also true that our western cattle have a little more bone than English. It is needless to point out the remedy, which is to discard all rough-boned bulls and breed only from small-boned, well-fleshed animals. It is a well-established fact that limestone soil is calculated to make bone, and to counteract this we must judiciously select small boned animals.

POLLED CATTLE.

The largest polled cattle are the Scotch Black, called Angus, and sometimes, though improperly, Aberdeen. The next largest are called Galloway, of the same shape, colour, and general characteristics; although not so fine and highly improved as the Angus. Both breeds are hardy and thrifty, and make the best beef, properly fattened. The cows generally being only moderate milkers, this stock is more profitable to rear for the shambles than for the dairy. The next in size are the Red Polled Norfolk and Suffolk cattle of England. The cows of this breed are generally large milkers, and when well fattened make a prime quality of beef. They are thus alike excellent for the dairyman and butcher. They are also hardy and thrifty, and, being the most generally useful, are highly deserving to be bred numerously in our country; and for the ordinary farmer would be the most profitable of all cattle.—*A. B. Allen, in N. Y. Tribune*.

FEEDING YOUNG COLTS.

The best possible substitute for milk of the dam is cow's milk. It should be sweetened at first, as the milk of the mare is sweeter than that of the cow. A little patient effort will soon result in teaching the colt to drink milk readily, but be careful not to give him too much at a time. A half pint is quite sufficient for a colt of a week old, but the ration should be repeated often—not less than six times a day, the idea being to give the colt really all it will drink, but to feed so often that it will not require very much at a time. As the colt grows older, the ration should be increased, and grass with oats should be added as soon as the colt is old enough to eat. No ration is better for a colt than cow's milk with these adjuncts. After the colt is two months old, skimmed milk should be substituted for the fresh cow's milk. Should there be any trouble from constipation, it will be well to add about one pint of oil meal per day to the ration; in fact we would recommend the use of oil meal in all cases, as it furnishes a large proportion of muscle and bone-forming food. If the oil meal is not obtainable, flaxseed may be used. A half pint of flaxseed boiled with two quarts of bran will make two good feeds for a colt, and this ration may profitably be alternated with the other food.—*Breeder's Gazette*.

Mr. MILTON BRIGGS, Kellogg, Iowa, who has done his State much service by devotion to improvement of stock, well says, in *Governor Gue's Homestead*, that "investing money in any one breed at high prices under the excitement of speculation will in the future, as it has in the past, prove disastrous." He adds that it is through "this humbug of fancy pedigree" that "many of our best cattle, as well as their owners, are being ruined, and passing off the records, leave no sign."—*N. Y. Tribune*.