

Prize Devons.

On the opposite page we give two illustrations of prize Devons exhibited at the last Provincial show in Hamilton. This very useful breed of cattle originated in the north of Devon, and was at one time in high repute both as dairy stock and for working cattle. The more showy qualities of the modern short-horns, their greater size and aptitude to fatten, have thrown all other breeds perhaps too much into the shade. There are qualities about the Devon that recommend them to the breeder. They are hardy in constitution, gentle in temper, will make average and not unfrequently more than average milkers; they are easily kept, and will readily take on fat; and more than all, they make the best class of working oxen for the backwoods settler—docile, quick, yet strong, and easily broken in. The splendid ring of short-horn cattle at the Hamilton Exhibition last year attracted an amount of attention that caused many to overlook the other classes; but we happened to be present while the judges were inspecting the Devon ring, and were much struck with the general excellence of this class. Among the meritorious animals then exhibited, the two whose portraits we give deservedly gained the highest honours.

The subject of the first illustration is the property of Mr. George Rudd, of Guelph. This fine bull, "Wilmot," gained the first prize on this occasion in the class of two-year old Devon bulls, and also the diploma against all other competitors in the same class, as the best bull of any age. He had previously taken several first prizes as a calf and year old at county and township shows. Mr. Rudd bought him of Colonel Scott, of Wilmot, when he was only a few months old. He was calved on May 4th, 1866. The following is his pedigree:—

Wilmot (261 Canadian Devon Stock Register), sire, Young William (103); grandsire, Duke (109); dam, Young Lady, (152s), by Wallace; g.d., Lady (81s), by Holkam (217); gr. g. dam, Devon (638), descended from the stock imported into the United States by the Hon. R. Kieely, from the Earl of Leicester.

Both Wilmots, sire and dam, took first prizes at the Provincial Show, the former also gained the same distinction at London. He is a fine, symmetrically built animal, and as the portrait shows, a good representative of the breed. We understand that he is docile in disposition, and an excellent stock getter.

The second illustration is a portrait of the thoroughbred Devon cow "Thrifty," owned by Messrs. W. & J. Peters, of London. She gained the first prize at the Provincial Exhibition, as the best cow. She is a beautiful specimen of her kind, of fair size, well proportioned, having a fine skin and good color. She has never appeared at any exhibition

without carrying off laurels in her class. She is a noble breeder and milker. Her offspring are also prize getters. The judges at the Exhibition spoke in high terms of the whole ring, and remarked that they found considerable difficulty in making their awards, as in quality the animals exhibited were very nearly alike, and all of very high merit.

The following is "Thrifty's" pedigree:—

She was bred by the late Samuel Peters, Esq., of Grosvenor Lodge, London, Ontario; was calved in January, 1862. Her sire was a first prize Devon bull, imported from England by W. H. Lock, of Yarmouth; her dam, Truefit 2nd; grand dam, Truefit 1st, imported from England and bred by the Earl of Leicester.

The Prevention of Disease.

To the Editor.

SM.—A few remarks on feeding and ventilation, with reference to the health of stock, may not be out of place at this season of the year.

I have often thought that farmers make a mistake in the management of their stock, particularly when fodder is scarce, by feeding their cattle too sparingly in the fall and during the winter months, so that the animals become poor and weak. Then again, in the spring, they feed them much better, particularly horses, to give them strength to enable them to do the spring's work. This, I think, is wrong, and I would recommend that horses should be fed rather better, if anything, during the winter than in the spring. But the right method is to feed regularly, for by this way fodder will certainly be economized, and disease not unfrequently prevented. For it is a known fact that an animal that is poor and weak requires more good food to keep him up than one which is fat and strong, to do the same amount of work. Another source of disease is the sudden changing the food from poor to rich. In early spring, particularly during the change of the weather, when days get hot, horses should be dieted for a day or two. This would be far better than to overfeed them. Dieting is not starvation. It is living on substantial food, in amount sufficient to satisfy the wants of the system. Sickness might also be prevented by continually and thoroughly ventilating the house in which the animals are lodged. By day and by night a window or door should be frequently left open, the animal being screened from immediate contact with the draft. Many diseases, especially those which are preceded by languor, lassitude, and drowsiness, are produced by a foul atmosphere, and by the effluvia arising from drains and sewers. The recovery of the animal will often entirely depend upon a removal to a pure air.

If there were more lovers of simple preventives, hundreds of lives now yearly lost

might be saved. Thousands of cases of sickness occur which might have been prevented, and measures for prevention are infinitely more beneficial and effective than remedies for the cure of disease.

J. W. MOORE.

Darlington.

Horse Feed.

A correspondent from Mono Centre writes:—

Your journal has a large circulation in this place, and its agricultural advice is very confidently followed by our farmers; I therefore wish to submit to you the following questions:—

In the *Complete Farmer*, published in the year 1831, by Thomas G. Fessenden, I find:

1st, he says that "the best of clover hay will keep horses as well as most other kinds of hay with oats."

2nd, he says that "wheat, the natural food for man, is poison to the horse."

Large quantities of hay are used in my stable, and most people will take timothy hay to feed their horses, even when there is plenty of clover hay to be had.

Oats have been so scarce that many farmers have fed large quantities of wheat to their horses. I have nothing else to give my own, and wheat is much cheaper than oats. My horses seem to improve on their new feed.

Is clover decidedly better for horses, and is wheat poison to them?

Ans.—The best clover hay, properly made, is good feed for horses or cattle; but as it is generally made, it is either mouldy, or too dry and dusty for horses, and timothy, which is usually better cured, is preferred. Wheat, when not injudiciously given in too large quantities, has been used with advantage in the old country, as well as in Canada, when other grains have been scarce. Its price, however, commonly puts it quite out of the question as food for horses. The injury it has sometimes caused has been owing to horses getting loose and gaining access to stores of wheat, upon which they have greedily fed, and suffered, perhaps even died, in consequence.

SALE OF STOCK.—Mr. Joseph Kirby, of Milton, Ontario, has sold his eight months old short-horn bull calf "Duke of Malden," by "Duke of Marlborough," 5387 A. H. B., out of "Diadem," sired by "Butterfly," 91 C. H. B., to the Anderson Agricultural Society. The same society have also purchased the two-year old bull "Erecliek," by "Rameo," bred by the late A. J. Fergusson Blair.

SHEEP AND SHEARING EXHIBITION.—The annual Sheep and Shearing Exhibition at Hamilton will be held, as usual, on the anniversary of the Queen's Birthday, May 24th, Sweepstakes prizes are offered, in accordance with the terms proposed by Mr. Nottle, in the CANADA FARMER of April, besides the usual premiums for the different breeds of sheep, and for shearing. The prize list is on a very liberal scale.