

and to this day the farmer gains more by the flock that yields him fleece and flesh than from the heavy ox or gormandizing swine. Such have been the refinements, however, upon the original breeds, that pure-bred sheep, while indispensable for maintaining a true stock, are no longer considered the most profitable for grazing. The delicate and comely Down is not altogether the most prolific of meat and wool, and the rage is now evidently for a more business like sheep—a cross-bred carrying mutton of all the delicacy of flavour and tenderness of fibre of the Southdown upon the robust and noble frame of a Cotswold, and clothed with wool not deteriorated in fineness of staple, though lengthened and augmented in weight by the Leicester and improved Lincoln breeds.

The Downs cannot well be more beautiful or appear in better character than they do on the present occasion; but they are certainly eclipsed by the immense size and ponderous proportions of the cross breeds. The Leicesters and Long-wools show well, and the former in singular variety; there are a few splendid specimens of the breed. Wool, however—such an important part of the animal—is of less account here than at a summer show of breeding stock. It still remains true that short-wool sheep may be carved into a perfectly symmetrical contour by the aid of the shears, and judges are beginning to expose and denounce particular pens for this unfairness.

The pig—that greedy devourer, yet useful scavenger and saveall—is so happily constituted that, notwithstanding the opprobrium of his manner of life, when once slaughtered we find “all of him is nice;” and economic still, if he cannot be all smoked hams or bath chaps, pickled pork or cured bacon, yet he gives even his offal parts to make the dainty pie and sausage, and to be fashioned into innumerable homely luxuries. But what our cooks would do with the extraordinary lumps of porcine matter exhibited here in such abundance we cannot divine. His Royal Highness the Prince Consort takes the first prize in one class. The three animals exhibited are all very much alike, and we imagine they constitute as admirable specimens of the race as can be found; they are of the kind called the small breed. The show of pigs is a full one; it is remarkably good, and, as usual, attracts great attention.

Although the club limits its attention to the development of fat stock and the encouraging of improved breeds, it has long recognized the value of a collection of agricultural machinery in the galleries appro-

priated as a mart for manufactures. And such is the interest taken by the public in this department, and the large amount of business transacted by all our chief implement makers and seedsmen at the annual metropolitan gathering of agriculturists, that we must add a few remarks on the principal features of the implement show, though, of course, in a hurried march through the innumerable stands and stalls, with their articles packed and piled one above another, it is impossible to see a tenth of the novelties really present, as the crowds of visitors and intending purchasers will find to their inconvenience during the week.

The most momentous question of farm mechanics, that of steam power husbandry, is represented by the invention of Mr. Halkett, who proposes to lay permanent rails across our fields at a vast outlay, in order to cheapen and facilitate all processes of tillage; Mr. Smith who adheres to his cheapest and simplest form of apparatus; and Mr. Fowler, who is now supplying the neatest, lightest, and completest machine for steam-ploughing and scarifying, after serving a long and costly apprenticeship in his endeavor to get the greatest “duty” out of the motive power, to employ a minimum length of rope, and work with the least amount of labour and expense. During the year, especially since the Warwick meeting, the subject has grown rapidly, and after years of quiet experiment and public racing trials, a great many practical testings have been made of steam culture in the regular routine of farm management; the inventors being now prepared, we understand, with testimonials so numerous, comprehensive, and convincing, that their publication will completely surprise the agricultural world. Numbers of sets of the Woolston apparatus and of Mr. Fowler’s have been supplied to English farmers, colonial and foreign planters, and others.—Some of the machines have been in use for four years; scores of farmers have started them in the hands of their common labourers; many adopters of the system have cultivated a thousand acres each—one as much as 1200 acres. The work done has included ploughing, subsoiling, deep trench ploughing, “smashing-up” of hard foul stubbles, and stirring soil that has been previously tilled; and these operations have been performed upon all descriptions of soil in all possible conditions and circumstances. Thus the fullest data will be forthcoming as to the cost of working, durability of the mechanism, liability to damage, and so on. The experience of the many uses