

at a person. Sometimes the affected animal will stand until death takes place, and often they are not noticed ailing until they are found dead in the fields or corrals.

The other form of the disease occurs under similar conditions, but is confined to stalk fields where the growth of stalks is not large, and when there are many wormy or mouldy nubbins. This latter form of disease has prevailed mostly in the southwestern portion of the state, while the true corn-stalk disease has been more to the north and east. The first symptom observed in this disease is a loss or lack of control of the hind legs. The animal either "knuckles over" or drags the hind legs somewhat, sometimes walking in an uncertain and staggering way, moving the hind-quarters, especially, from side to side. Later, the animal falls, and the paralysis of the posterior extremities is so great that it is unable to rise again. The animal may eat, and usually does, though sometimes it loses consciousness or becomes delirious. There is little, if any, bloating until the animal has been lying down for some time, the bowels appearing normal. Some of these animals recover after being sick or unable to get up for a week, if they are not badly affected, and are able to take nourishment. It is to be noted also that horses are affected with this latter form of disease, although in a slightly different form, the disease affecting the brain more severely than in cattle.

The cause of the disease seems to be bad food, wormy or mouldy corn; and examination is being made of this to determine, if possible, what the injurious substance is, if there is any, and what effect it has upon the system.

It is expected that the observations and investigations regarding the so-called corn-stalk disease will soon be published in bulletin form, and the writer would be glad to hear from stockmen whose herds have suffered from this ailment all the details and circumstances, and years in which losses occurred. It is hoped that some light may in this way be thrown upon this very peculiar disease, which probably causes greater loss to stockmen than any one disease except hog cholera.

### “What is Character?”

Paper read by MR. R. MILLER, Brougham, Ont., at the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' meeting.

The term "character," used in various ways when applied to Shorthorns, is one of the meanings of which many people have but a vague idea. We have heard judges when asked their reasons for giving one animal preference to another answer, with a wise look, that it was because of the great amount of character displayed by the

one in comparison with the other. The enquirer, being awed by the look and the ambiguity of the term, if a simple man with no great pretensions as to judgment, usually subsides at once with a look of sorrow for himself because he had not noticed the great difference, or, perhaps, with a look of admiration for the man who has such great wisdom and superior judgment. We have also heard the term used to cover the indifferent qualities of an animal offered for sale, and intended to check the criticism of the would-be purchaser.

The term used in either of the above ways is being abused, for it has a useful meaning, and, to the practiced eye, is the first consideration in the animal. It means breed type, in head, horns, carriage, color, hair, and general outline, or, in other words, the judgment of the eye. While each of the points of an animal's make up must always be of great importance, no one of them, or two or three combined, can be of such importance as character, because they cannot make a good animal without an even balancing of the whole. Constitution is an important factor in an animal, but what use would a good constitution be in a bad animal. A good head or good back, with well-covered loin, are two valuable points, but fail utterly in making a good animal, unless other points agree with them. The first impression destroys all chance of selling if it be unfavorable, and assists very much in making a sale if favorable, so that minor points are lost in the demand for a well-balanced whole, which must be present to satisfy the eye in order that a detailed examination be proceeded with. Too often style is called character, and style of the gaudy kind, such as a high head, rather long legs, with ribs inclining to be short, may have been very nearly the meaning of the term twenty-five years ago; but it is now counted among the exploded fallacies, and left with the craze for fancy line breeding to be buried with the past. Style is a term scarcely used now, because it is a very misleading one, and cannot properly be applied to an animal of the most approved present-day type.

"Character" applied to Shorthorns means type of the most valuable, vigorous, early maturing, smooth, and uniform kind. It is the first quality to be desired by the breeder who wishes to be successful, and must be the constant watchword of all breeders who aim to keep in the forefront with those who are making such rapid strides towards perfecting the greatest breed of cattle that the world has so far produced.

Shorthorns, though scattered throughout the whole civilized world, though subjected to all imaginable kinds of treatment in the hands of a