

cheaper and better than in building good houses for all of them as soon as we could; when tied up, the small or weak cattle got whatever you liked to give them, and could eat it in peace without being driven about by the larger beasts; thought there was no danger in giving cattle all the salt they liked during winter, if given regularly, or laid in troughs, in some place where they could get at it whenever they liked; thought that salting our straw stacks would probably be as well as giving them the salt; thought they ought to have it at least once a week; thought salt gave cattle an appetite.

Birmingham Cattle and Poultry Show

The annual show of fat cattle and poultry was held in Birmingham during the last week of November. The display of cattle was excellent in most of the classes. The first prize for the best animal in the show was won by Mr. Bruce, of Burnside, for a remarkably fine polled heifer. The best Short-horn, taking the awards of the judges as the criterion, was shown by Mr. Stratton, of Alton, Wiltshire; the best Hereford by H. Bellridge, East Hamney, Berkshire; and the best Devon by Trevor Lee, of Broughton House, near Aylesbury. In this class the Queen also showed some fine animals, which were "highly commended." In Herefords, Her Majesty gained the first prize for a two-year old steer.

In reference to the award for the best animal in the show, the *Mark Lane Express* observes:—

In the course of ten years the Innkeepers' Plate or prize for the best beast in Bingley Hall has been won at four meetings by Short-horns, at three by Scotch black Polls, twice by Herefords, and once by a Shorthorn-and-Aberdeen cross. On three of these occasions the best of all has been taken from the cow and heifer classes, but it may be interesting if not more directly useful to give the complete return:

- 1861—Mr. McCombie's polled cow.
- 1862—Mr. Stewart's cross-bred ox.
- 1863—Mr. Swaisland's Shorthorn heifer.
- 1864—Mr. Phillips' Hereford steer.
- 1865—Mr. Rowland Wood's Shorthorn steer.
- 1866—No show of cattle.
- 1867—Mr. McCombie's polled ox.
- 1868—Mr. Heath's Hereford steer.
- 1869—Lord Aylesford's Shorthorn steer.
- 1870—Mr. Pulver's Shorthorn steer.
- 1871—Mr. Bruce's polled heifer.

Of these, Mr. Swaisland's Shorthorn heifer, Mr. McCombie's polled ox, and Mr. Heath's Hereford, were also gold medal animals at the Smithfield Club show; as since the establishment of a Champion Plate in London the Birmingham ruling has been followed with Lord Aylesford's and Mr. Pulver's Short-horns.

There was a beautiful display of sheep, with Lord Berner's Leicesters as usual taking the chief honours. The Prince of Wales gained the first prize for Southdowns.

The show of pigs was of moderate merit; the Duckerings, who have been for two successive years at the head in this class, gave place to more successful competitors in the persons of J. Wheeler & Son, winners of the cup for the best pen of small-breed pigs; the Marquis of Aylesbury, who gained the first prize for the three best fat pigs of one litter under 10 months old; and J. Biggs, of Leighton Buzzard, who took similar honours for the three best under 15 months old. Some pigs were again disqualified on account of age by the referee, Professor Gamgee, in spite of positive assertions on the part of the exhibitor's farm steward that the ages were correctly stated, and that the disqualified animals were of the same litter as other pigs that were allowed to have been correctly entered. This will no doubt subject the teeth test to sharp criticism.

Of the exhibition of poultry, the *Mark Lane Express* says:

Bingley Hall still maintains its supremacy in respect to its exhibition of poultry, of which there was a grand display, with no less than 2,057 pens. All the varieties but the pigeons were well represented, and the general condition in which the specimens were shown is highly creditable. The following weights of the winning pens may be interesting:—Ducks, white, Aylesbury, drake and one duck, 1st, 17lb. 12oz.; 2nd, 16lb. 12oz.; 3rd, 15lb. 4oz.; 4th, 13lb. 10oz. Ducks, Rouen, drake and one duck, 1st, 19lb. 5oz.; 2nd, 19lb. 1oz.; 3rd, 18lb. 15oz.; 4th, 18lb. 10oz.; 5th, 18lb. 8oz. Geese, white, birds exceeding one year old, gander and one goose, 1st 56lb. 9oz.; 2nd, 56lb. 9oz. Ditto, birds of 1871, 1st, 48lb. 6oz.; 2nd, 44lb. Ditto, grey and mottled, exceeding one year old, 1st, 60lb.; 2nd, 51lb. Ditto, birds of 1871, 1st, 47lb.; 2nd, 37lb. Turkeys, cocks, exceeding one year old, 1st, 36lb. 4oz.; 2nd, 32lb. 8oz. Ditto, hatched in 1871, 1st, 28lb.; 2nd, 23lb. 4oz. Turkeys, hens, exceeding one year old, 1st, 38lb. 12oz.; 2nd, 35lb. 8oz. Hens, hatched in 1871, 1st, 38lb. 10oz.; 2nd, 27lb. 2oz.

Smithfield Club Cattle Show.

The Smithfield Club Show of Fat Cattle, following as usual the Birmingham Exhibition, was held at Islington in the first week of December. Unfortunately, a number of the cattle transferred from Birmingham were found badly infected with foot-and-mouth disease, and some of the Bingley Hall prize beasts were not shown at all at Islington from the same cause—the presence of the malady having been detected in time to prevent their re-appearance in public. The occurrence of this dreaded disorder detracted not a little from the interest and success of the occasion. Nevertheless there was on the whole a good show. The Shorthorns were in largest force. The Herefords were only meagrely represented in point of numbers; Mr. Heath's ox being, according to the *Mark Lane Express*, one of the best of this class. Mr. McCombie's polled ox was beaten by better beasts. The Queen was the winner of the first prize for Devons.

The Champion Plate, a cup, value £100, for the best beast in the show, was won by J. Stratton, Alton Priors, Wiltshire.

Lord Berner's Leicesters were again a long way ahead in the sheep classes.

The pigs were a good show. The Queen's Suffolks, from the Prince Consort's Farm, Windsor, gaining first prizes.

The Diseases of Stock.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—The accounts received from France relative to the cattle plague are most discouraging, as they not only show that the disease is spreading at a fearful rate in many of the Departments where it has long existed, but that the authorities are far less vigilant than the emergency of the case demands. In the Department of the Nord the disease has now approached so near to the Belgian frontier that the greatest fears are entertained lest it should again enter that kingdom, to prevent which troops have been despatched to several places on the frontier. Upwards of 24,000 animals were killed in the Department of the Nord since September, and very recently about 200 in the district of St. Omer. Besides this serious state of things as existing in France, we learn that the cattle plague has again entered Moravia, and has broken out in four or five villages containing much cattle. The disease likewise not only maintains its hold in Lower Austria, but is extending the area of its infection, despite the repressive measures had recourse to by the authorities. The malady is reported to have disappeared from Verro in Livonia, but to be equally rife in Galicia and the southern parts of Poland.

THE SIBERIAN PLAGUE.—This disease, which possesses a fatality almost equal to cattle plague, and attacks horses and occasionally man himself, as well as cattle and sheep, has broken out with much virulence in several places in the Government of St. Petersburg, having travelled thither either by way of Archangel or Moscow. Special sanitary committees have been appointed, quarantine established, and military cordons drawn around the infected places, but at present with comparatively little benefit.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.—The infected counties of England number thirty-three, and of Scotland fourteen. No cases are reported from Wales. One hundred and eighty-six centres of infection exist in England, and fifty-eight in Scotland. The disease still continues in the dairies of London and some other of the large towns, information of its existence being suppressed as much as possible by the owners of the cattle. The reports from Holland show a still further diminution of pleuro-pneumonia in that country. Ninety-eight parishes are returned as centres of the disease, forty-one of which are in South Holland, twenty-one in North Holland, and twenty-six in Utrecht.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.—During the past month the fluctuations in the number of cases of this disease have been very considerable. On the whole, however, the beneficial effects of an increased vigilance on the part of the local authorities to give full effect to the means they possess for suppressing the disease have become more apparent. The attacks, which had risen in England, Scotland, and Wales, to about forty thousand in one week in September, have now decreased to about thirty-two thousand; but the centres of the infection have not materially lessened. The movement of diseased and infected cattle, Irish and English, is still among the chief causes of the wide diffusion of the disease. From the continent our information continues to show that a decrease of the disease is still going on in Holland, Spain, and other unscheduled countries.—*The Veterinarian for December.*