

STOCK.

Lessons from Smithfield.

EARLY MATURITY AND GAIN PER DAY.

A correspondent of the *London Live Stock Journal* has tabulated the results of the weighing of the prizewinning animals in the principal cattle classes at the late Smithfield Fat Stock Show in regard to daily gain at different ages, from which we give the following summary. This live weight gain was obtained by dividing the present live weight by the age, not counting the weight of the calf at birth. A table is given in another column showing the percentage of dressed to live weight in the case of animals entered for the carcass competition:

NOT EXCEEDING TWO YEARS OLD.	
	Average live weight gain per day from birth in lbs.
Cross-bred.....	2.32
Shorthorn.....	2.24
Hereford.....	2.13
Aberdeen-Angus.....	2.03
Devon.....	1.96
Galloway.....	1.90
Average.....	2.12
ABOVE 2 BUT NOT EXCEEDING 2½ YEARS OLD.	
Cross-bred.....	2.05
Aberdeen-Angus (only one prizewinner).....	2.03
Shorthorn.....	1.99
Hereford.....	1.90
Devon.....	1.66
Average.....	1.92
ABOVE 2½ YEARS BUT NOT EXCEEDING 3 YEARS OLD.	
Cross-bred.....	1.89
Aberdeen-Angus.....	1.88
Shorthorn.....	1.75
Hereford.....	1.73
Devon.....	1.57
Average.....	1.76

These figures serve to confirm and emphasize what has been known to advanced feeders for many years—that young animals gain weight much more rapidly than older ones, and there is a great advantage in producing young beef.

The same point is made even more apparent by the results of the prize-winning animals over three years old, which show an average gain per day from birth of only 1.21 pounds.

Regarding the teaching of the carcass competition at the show, there are no special features to report, saving that in the endeavor to present animals showing a large percentage of lean, some of the contestants sent animals in a really unfinished state, a feature which was also noticeable in the carcass test of pigs at the Brantford Show. This is undoubtedly a mistake, and judges will no doubt take measures to prevent a lapse into the marketing of ill-fed animals; but, on the other hand, it was remarkable that only in four instances were the animals that won first prize alive placed first when dead, so that judges have yet something to learn before they can estimate with certainty by handling the live animal what will be the quality of the flesh when dressed.

Our Scottish Letter.

THE SMITHFIELD AND OTHER SHOWS.

We have just got over our annual fat stock shows, and feel happy, because it has throughout been a case of Scotland first and the rest nowhere. On hoof the champion of the year is, as so often before, an Aberdeen-Angus heifer. In carcass the Galloways have made a clean sweep, taking all before them. The cross-bred classes have been led throughout by cattle bred in Ross-shire. And in the sheep department the Scottish mountain breeds have done well as carcasses, although the best mutton was declared to be that of a Suffolk lamb. There can be no doubt at all that the future belongs to the breed or cross which can break the record, not on hoof, but in carcass. There are now five great fat stock shows in the United Kingdom—Norwich, Inverness, Birmingham, Edinburgh, and London—occurring in the order above indicated. At the Norwich Show the champion was a Scots cross-bred heifer named May, in many respects a most level, well-furnished and beautiful animal. She was bred by Mr. John Ross, Meikle Tarrel, Easter Ross, and was got by his famous stock bull Ringleader, bred at Collynie, and without doubt the most extraordinary sire of cross-bred cattle the history of stock-breeding has known. How successful he is may be inferred from the fact that out of five classes of cross-bred cattle at the Smithfield Show he was sire of five, all of which were bred by Mr. Ross, and another animal, a pure-bred Shorthorn heifer named Silence, was also got by

Ringleader, and bred by Mr. Ross. She was beaten by May at Norwich, but turned the tables at London, where Silence beat everything except the supreme champion of the Show, the A.-A. heifer, Ju-Ju of Glamis, bred and owned by the Earl of Strathmore, and also winner throughout at Birmingham. One of the most notable animals at Norwich and Smithfield was the champion steer Master Harbinger, a great big, massive red, bred by Mr. Ross, and got by Ringleader. He was the heaviest bullock at the show, scaling 19 c. 1 qr. 6 lb. at three weeks less than three years old. It is significant of the change in public taste that in spite of his victories, which include the steer championship at Norwich, Birmingham, and London, Master Harbinger was one of the last of the prize animals to find a customer. All the lighter weights were sold early, but by the middle of the third day he had not been sold. Mr. Ross' cattle, which thus distinguished themselves, are got from black cross cows, whose sire was an A.-A. bull named Carol, from the Castle Craig herd, and their dams were ordinary unpedigreed Shorthorn cows. These celebrated cattle are thus practically three-parts-bred Shorthorns, and wonderfully level, well-finished animals they are. At all of the shows in question they were in the front rank, and were only beaten at Inverness and Edinburgh by the exhibits of another Ross-shire breeder, Mr. J. Douglas Fletcher, of Rosehaugh. Mr. Fletcher is one of the most spirited of Scottish landlords. Possessed of great wealth, he has acquired an extensive tract of land in the Black Isle—the peninsula lying between the Moray and the Cromarty Firths. Mr. Fletcher keeps a fine Shorthorn herd on one farm, an Aberdeen-Angus herd on another, and a herd of feeding or cross cattle on a third. He has also a fine Clydesdale stud, and a rising flock of Border Leicester sheep. Whatever he does he does well, and everyone was delighted when in 1894 he won the Smithfield championship with an Aberdeen-Angus heifer, Pride of the Highlands. He tries all kinds of crosses, and this year

months this heifer weighed 15 c. 3 qr. 5 lb., or, to put it otherwise, 1,700 pounds. The victory of Ju-Ju, alike at Birmingham and London, was very popular, and if Lord Strathmore wins the cups again they become his absolute property. He has a heifer in training for the purpose, and will likely prove triumphant when the proper time arrives.

It is rather curious that all the Smithfield champions of the A.-A. breed have been heifers, and a wonderful series it has been—Lusury, Benton Bride, Bridesmaid, Pride of the Highlands, Mina of Glamis, and Ju-Ju of Glamis. Three of these heifers belonged to Mr. Clement Stephenson, M. R. C. V. S., Newcastle-on-Tyne; two to Lord Strathmore; and one to Mr. Fletcher, of Rosehaugh. It is grand business, and in the fat stock showing on hoof the doddies are invincible.

In carcass the honors go to the other polled breed of Scotland—the Galloways. No class of cattle are in better favor with butchers than these great, old-fashioned beef producers. Some prefer them pure, and others like their cross—the blue-gray. Up to a few years ago the idea was that there was only one way of getting blue-grays, namely, by putting the Shorthorn bull on the Galloway cow. But in 1892 Smithfield was won by a blue-gray got by a Galloway bull from a Shorthorn cow, and this set men a-thinking. Last year (1897), again the same thing happened, and now many are looking to the Galloway sire and the Shorthorn dam to produce the thing wanted. In the carcass competition this year Galloway stirks—a steer and a heifer from 21 months to 22 months old respectively, and both bred and owned by Mr. H. G. Murray Stewart, of Cally—have been champion and reserve champion in keenly-contested classes, containing representatives of all breeds and crosses. These Galloways made prime carcasses of the kind wanted by butchers at the present day, and there was no gainsaying their title to the supremacy. The champion carcass yielded 64 per cent. dead to live weight, and this was also the percentage in the case of the heifer. The best percentage in the competition was made by a South Devon steer, which won first in the two-year-old class, and killed 67 per cent. dead to live weight. These results are very significant, and must do much to increase the popularity of the Galloway with meat salesmen.

THE SHEEP CLASSES.

Amongst the sheep no breed is more rapidly coming to the front than the Suffolk. This is one of the newest breeds in England. It is not claimed that it came out of the Ark; on the contrary, it is plainly acknowledged that the breed is the result of crossing the native horned sheep of East Anglia with the Southdown, the result being the modern Suffolk, a hornless black-faced short-wooled sheep which weighs remarkably well and yields plenty of lean mutton. In the carcass competition

the championship went to a Suffolk lamb nine months old, whose weight before being killed was 164 pounds, and its carcass weighed 106 pounds. The second prize in the lamb class for short-wooled sheep also went to a Suffolk, and in the shearing class a Suffolk-Cheviot cross won. At 19 months old its weight was 184 pounds, and its carcass weight 123 pounds. For long-wool lambs the premier honors went to a black-faced lamb seven months three weeks old, and weighing alive 120 pounds and 74 pounds dead. A Lincoln lamb was second. Its age was nine months, its live weight 182 pounds and its carcass weight 106 pounds. A Cheviot lamb was third. Age seven and a quarter months, live weight 103 pounds, carcass 64 pounds. These are the weights and this the class of mutton for which in the present day the highest prices are given. The Smithfield Club has undoubtedly in the past fostered early maturity. By instituting the carcass competition it has done an incalculable service to the breeders of the cattle and sheep which produce the choicest quality of beef and mutton. Your Guelph Fat Stock Club telegraphed its congratulations to the Smithfield Club on attaining its Centenary, and a cordial response was sent in reply. H. R. H. the Prince of Wales was present at the Centenary general meeting, and also attended the show for some time on its two opening days. The Smithfield Club has been a most useful institution.

"SCOTLAND YET."

A very peculiar accident happened at Hon. W. Clifford's farm at Austin, Man., last week. He had purchased two cows from different parties and tied them side by side in the stable. Not appreciating one another's company, during the night they decided to settle their differences by a free fight, with the extraordinary result that they got their horns locked in such a manner as to throw each other, and in the fall each animal broke its neck, and they were both found dead in the morning.



MEMBERS OF THE DOMINION SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION
PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, BRANTFORD, 1898.