

must be plowed and cross-plowed repeatedly during the summer—three to four times at least. The plowing should be thorough, no *bone* left uncut and unturned, and be rough and cloddy; it will absorb the more carbonic acid and ammonia from the atmosphere. The first plowing should be early in the autumn previous, as soon as the crop is removed. It should be shallow, that the seeds of weeds may all germinate and be killed. The second plowing in the fall, deep and rough, to remain exposed to the ameliorating influence of winter. Then, in the summer following, each successive plowing should turn up a fresh layer of soil; and if the subsoil be a hard-pan it should be subsoiled, the subsoil not brought up into the fertile soil, but, when broken up by the subsoiler falling back into its bed.

Wheat grown on fallow commands the highest price in the British market, while the improvement of the land is more than sufficient compensation for the year's rent and the increased labor. The improvements are, an increased power of the soil of absorption of the atmospheric fertilizers; a greater pliability, breaking into mellow soil the hard, heavy clinkers; and a rendering available the plant food that had been locked up in the stiff clay.

It is sometimes found necessary to fallow even a light soil, in order to get rid of the weeds that have from bad farming taken entire possession of the soil. No other means will suffice in some cases to clear land from weeds that rob the crop of the sustenance it should receive. Of these weeds, comb grass, thistle and wild oats are among the worst, the most difficult to clean the land from. The land is to be plowed in autumn and fall, as in the case of heavy clay land. The summer fallowing consists in successive grubbing with a heavy cultivator, followed by the harrow, preventing all growth of weeds. They will, by this successive exposure, be soon killed by our great summer heat.

The Bath and West of England Exhibition.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

EXETER, DEVONSHIRE, ENGLAND,
June 6th, 1879.

The great exhibition of the Bath and West of England Society was held this year in the ancient City of Exeter, the capital of the beautiful County of Devonshire, and according to instructions I now make an attempt to give the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE an idea of what the farmers and others of England can do in the way of agricultural shows. Before proceeding, however, to deal with the present show, a short sketch of the Bath and West of England Society may not be out of place, and I venture to say will be read with much interest by your numerous patrons. This Society, then, was established in England for the improvement of agriculture. It is now in the 102nd year of its existence. Some people seem possessed with the conceit that all the great advancements in our leading industries belong to the present generation, but this Society, for one, was formed for the "encouragement of agriculture, arts, manufactures and commerce," more than a century ago. Its birthplace was the fashionable City of Bath. Although it was the first Society formed in England for promoting good husbandry, that vital art had long before received close, practical attention from many earnest Britons. The man to whom the original idea of the formation of the B. and W. of E. Society was due, was a Mr. Edward Rack, a native of Norfolk, who had come to reside in Bath. Believing that a Society for promoting rural improvements would be a great benefit in

that part of the Kingdom, he set forth his views in the newspapers early in 1777; a meeting took place, and although only twenty-two attended it, yet they went at it with such heart and good will that the Association was formed, which has gone on with its useful work from that day to this. The first President of the Society was the Earl of Ilchester. The first subject which engaged the Society's attention was how to grow corn in the best and cheapest method. One of the first announcements made the second year related to the exhibition at the Society's rooms of a drill plough, which was stated to have been tried by the agricultural committee, and been found to deliver the grain with great exactness and regularity. This was the first implement exhibited in that wonderful series that has since been spread over the world. The Society went on practicing its useful and beneficent labors—prizes were given to promote competition in stock breeding, the produce of implements, &c. The leading agriculturists of the country assisted in its advancement, and the result is that to-day it is a power in the land.

The site of the present exhibition is very pleasantly situated near the old City of Exeter. The show itself is considered a grand success, both as regards exhibits and visitors. The show opened on Monday, June 2nd, and closed the following Saturday. The "great day" here, as in Canada, was Thursday. On this day over 35,000 people visited the grounds. Taking the show as a whole, it was on a much larger scale than the Western or Provincial Fairs of Ontario, but in some departments the latter were far ahead of the B. and W. of E. Society. Here there were 661 entries of live stock, including 123 horses, 88 Devon cattle, 43 Short-horns, 33 Herfords, 48 Sussex, 50 Jerseys, and 38 Guernseys. Of sheep there were 207 pens, embracing 21 of Leicesters, 21 Cotswolds, 14 Devon (long wools), 38 South Downs, 28 Hampshire Downs, 18 Somerset and Dorset horns, and 14 Exmoors. There were 81 entries of pigs, of which 35 were Berkshires. In the poultry department there were 401 entries, including 114 of pigs.

Among the cattle there were some magnificent animals, the like of which your correspondent never saw in Canada. The Devons, as might be expected, make a splendid show. The first honors in this class are awarded to Mr. Walter Farthing, of Bridgwater, for "Lord Newsham," an animal that was first at the Royal Society's show last year as a yearling, and is said to have wonderfully developed since then. He has an immense barrel, a very massive shoulder, his sides are almost as straight as a line, and the hind quarter is also well brought out. The Shorthorns are considered the meanest in character that has been seen at this show for many years. In the class for cows the judges left out of the prize list one of the class, once as fine a calf as ever was bred, which has been destroyed for breeding purposes by being puffed up for show on milk and meal from the days of her calthood—the result of which is that she now looks as though she were rapidly going "all to pieces;" and it is quite certain her issue (should she ever have any that grow to maturity) will be comparatively worthless, in consequence of the injury inflicted on their dam for fashionable purposes. The Sussex cattle are a remarkable collection for size, weight of flesh and improved quality. The Jerseys were conspicuous for their beauty and milk-giving capacity, when fed on a small amount of food.

Among the horses there were some beautiful specimens of careful breeding, especially in the "hunters" class. The west of England is not famous for any special breed of horses. In agricultural stallions the first prizes go to Sussex and Norfolk.

There is nothing particular to be said about the sheep. The Devon long wools are being greatly improved and becoming very popular by the introduction of Lincoln and Leicester strains. At present they are not uniform in character, but by judicious selection and watching a breed of as true a type as the Oxfordshire Downs, and truer than the mixed breeds of Shropshires, may be established.

The exhibition of pigs was particularly noted for the mammoth proportions of most of the animals in the large breed, and altogether the display of "pork" was very fine, far surpassing anything I ever saw in Canada. There has been much discussion of late among Wiltshire bacon curers in regard to the right form of swine for producing bacon for London and other great markets. A meeting will shortly be held to discuss these points.

In the poultry classes the first place was taken by the Dorkings, which were a remarkably fine collection of birds, and included all the prominent and best varieties. Great satisfaction was expressed with the Cochins, which in respect to the black and white descriptions were really a fine lot of birds, of splendid plumage and in good feather. Among the Brahmas the light varieties seemed to be the most popular. In the other classes the show appeared to be no better than often seen at the Western or Provincial Fairs. The pigeon display far excelled anything I ever saw in Canada.

The show of implements was very large and attractive, prominent among them being several American articles. And in each of the latter cases the Yankees took especial pains to put themselves well to the front.

The show of machinery, arts and manufactures, &c., was simply grand, and I regret that time and space will not permit me to present to your readers a few of the leading features. DEVONIAN.

Advantages of English Agriculture.

A short season necessarily brings work in a heap, and brings a generally inferior crop. The advantages which English wheat and oats have, is that they mature slowly, and therefore fill well. Our hot, dry weather in harvesting is favorable for securing the crop, but injurious to its quality otherwise. The most serious loss is the impossibility of making needed farm improvements. Thousands of acres of good land are now under water, and before it can be dry enough to begin underdraining, the plow must be started and all hope for improving it be lost for this year. In the fall, this soil will be so hard that it will be one-half more expensive to dig the drains than it would be now. Much underdraining is done in the fall, because then is when the land is being fitted for wheat; but in most cases, it would pay better to hire extra help and do the work the spring before. It is a mistake to suppose that underdraining is not needed for spring grain. Both barley and oats are less hardy against stagnant water than wheat, and the only reason why the latter is so badly injured, is that its stagnant water often comes when the soil is alternately freezing and thawing, heaving the wheat roots out.

A correspondent of the Indiana Farmer tried four different fertilizers for melons—poultry droppings, well-rotted cow manure, barnyard manure and old bones (gathered upon the farm and reduced by placing them in alternate layers with ashes the previous year), mixing all liberally in the different hills, which were eight feet apart each way, and he says:—"Such a crop of melons as came from the hills that had bone-dust I never saw before."

Mr. J. Hapgood, Shrewsbury, Mass., favors shallow setting of asparagus roots; if placed, as some advise, eight inches below the surface, it "makes the crop one or two weeks later." He further maintains, in the American Cultivator, that he has also "found that the idea that salt is useful to this plant is mere theory, like the trenching system."