

On hoof they placed a Cheviot first, which cut up so lean and deficient in fat that it got no prize at all as a carcass. Their second-prize winner on hoof, a Suffolk-Cheviot cross, was placed first as a carcass. Their second-prize carcass—the same kind of cross—was unplaced on hoof. The third carcass was in a similar state, and their fourth, a Blackface lamb, was placed fourth on hoof. Their third-prize selection on hoof—a Devon—cut up so fat that it was unclassified as a carcass. In one case only did they fairly hit the mark. The reserve champion mutton carcass was a Suffolk-Cheviot wether, 20 months old, which the judges selected as first on hoof. The second in this class alive was third dead, and their third alive was unplaced. Their second carcass was possibly an unfamiliar type to a London butcher, and was unplaced on hoof. It was the produce of a Suffolk ram and what we call in Scotland a gray-face ewe—that is, a ewe got by a Border-Leicester ram from a Blackface ewe. The third alive was a Cheviot wether, which cut up so fat that it was unplaced as a carcass. In the class for shortwooled lambs, which furnished the champion mutton carcass, the judges were hopelessly out of it in selecting the sheep on hoof. They failed to place either of the first four, nor were they any more successful in the corresponding class for older sheep. The educative value of a carcass competition is thus seen to be very great, as well as very necessary. Where butchers are so much at sea, what can be expected of farmers?

The classes for living animals at nearly all shows have this year been conspicuous for the supremacy of the cross-breeds. The champion animal at Norwich was an A.-A.-Dexter cross—a perfect model, but, of course, light in weight, as things go. At Inverness and Edinburgh the champion was a great black polled ox, got by an A.-A. sire from a pedigree Shorthorn dam. The Birmingham champion was the King's Hereford steer. All of these were knocked hopelessly out of time at Smithfield by a cross-bred roan heifer, beautifully made and moulded, and got by a Shorthorn sire out of a pedigreed A.-A. dam. She is an extraordinary animal in various respects. There is scarcely a single feature of her dam's breed to be traced in her. She is Shorthorn in color, mould, and type. Perhaps the A.-A. influence appears in her roundness of thighs and fineness of bone, but otherwise you could not detect it. She is horned, and makes a beautiful picture. In spite of these things it can hardly be said that her victory was popular, and none of the London butchers bought her. She was purchased by a gentleman from Hull, and goes north to that port. The favorite was Mr. J. J. Cridlan's A.-A. steer, Twin Ben, which at Birmingham was defeated by the King's Hereford, but turned the tables on him at London. The polled steer was well brought out, and firm in flesh. He was a popular victor, as the best steer in the show of any breed or type, and the final lay between him and the heifer already referred to. She is named Miss Charles, and was bred by Mr. Wm. Charles, Gammons, Rothie-Norman, Aberdeenshire. Her owner is Mr. Batchelor, Greatham, Pulborough, Sussex. She is the heaviest animal in the show, scaling 2,119 pounds at 2 years 10 months 3 weeks 1 day. Mr. Cridlan's polled steer scales 1,948 pounds at 2 years 11 months 3 weeks 3 days. The sire of Miss Charles was a Duthie bull named Count Alaric, of the same family as the great Count Lavender, and others of the same tribal name. The Galloway classes were filled fairly well, both at Edinburgh and London. The championship at Edinburgh went to Captain Stirling, of Keir, Dunblane, for a bullock named Punch, bred by Captain Cunningham, of Hensol. He was first at Smithfield last year, but this year only stood fourth there. His weight at 2 years 10 months 4 days was 1,662 pounds. The breed championship at London went to Messrs. Biggar & Sons for the first-prize heifer, bred by themselves. Her weight at 2 years 9 months 3 weeks was 1,538 pounds.

A remarkable feature of the show was the overwhelming preponderance of Shorthorn blood in the cross-bred classes. Of 51 cattle exhibited in these classes not one could be found in which the Shorthorn was not an element. There were all kinds of combinations, but in all the Shorthorn wielded a potent sway. The first-prize youngster was a Shorthorn-Galloway, or blue-gray, the produce of a white Shorthorn bull and a black polled heifer. All the other prize-winners in the class were the produce of a Shorthorn-Aberdeen-Angus combination, with one exception—another Shorthorn-Galloway. In the older class of steers all the prizes went to the Shorthorn-Aberdeen-Angus combination. The same remark applies to all the prizewinners in both classes of heifers. The Smithfield of 1903 was a veritable triumph for this line of breeding commercial cattle.

An interesting account was lately given by a West of Scotland tenant-farmer of his efforts to secure a species of dairy cow capable of producing well-colored milk, to which it would be unneces-

sary to add artificial coloring matter. The cross resorted to is a most unusual one—the Jersey bull and Ayrshire cow. The result has been surprising. Mr. Matthew Craig, Thornliebank, near Glasgow, is the gentleman in question, and anyone who desires to understand his work should communicate with him. Mr. Craig made use of lantern-slides to illustrate his point; his cattle

are good sorts, and he has succeeded in his aim. Some were sceptical regarding the feeding value of animals bred in the way indicated. Mr. Craig got prices for his "shots" which so far as that is concerned were surprising. Of course, any kind of Jersey bull will not do for the purpose in view, and the Ayrshire cows have also to be carefully selected. "SCOTLAND YET."

THE ONTARIO WINTER FAIR.

This institution grows with its years in extent, in popularity and in usefulness. It is by long odds the best of the enterprises of the breeders' associations. It is essentially a school of animal husbandry, imparting information, by means of object lessons in living specimens and dressed carcasses, by lectures and conferences and criticism. It sets the standard of type, and shows what qualifications meet the requirements of the markets.

The farmers, who come in crowds from far and near, unanimously proclaim it par excellence the stock show of the year. They love to linger near and discuss the merits of a beast that fills the bill from the producer's and the consumer's standpoint, and that gets there at a minimum of cost.

All honor is due Secretary Westervelt and his staff for the excellent manner in which the Guelph show is conducted, the well-arranged programme being carried out with commendable punctuality. The efficient Superintendent, Mr. J. G. Hammer, who for seven years has filled that important position, is also entitled to unstinted praise for the systematic arrangement of exhibits, the cleanly condition of the building, the prompt appearance of the animals at the call to the ring, and the general satisfaction expressed by exhibitors and visitors with the conduct of the show.

Suggestions for improvements are more easily made than carried out, and are subject to approval by directors and exhibitors. If we were permitted to offer any, the first that presents itself is the English plan of classifying the cattle in the stalls by ages; that is, all of an age in each class being placed side by side, for convenience of comparison and uniformity of size. We know how exhibitors kick at the proposal to divide their exhibit, and we bow to their protest till they see fit to yield the point peacefully. Prize-cards, tacked over the catalogue numbers in the stalls, would seem a necessity, in addition to the colored prize ribbons given, which are too often pocketed by the owners, or hung on a string, indiscriminately, for display and not for information. Those who fail to see the awards made in the ring find difficulty in following them in the stalls, even with catalogue in hand, if the ribbons are not with the catalogue number.

The Exposition building, capacious as it is, is already proving too cramped for the exhibits. If such is the case, now what will be the condition if the show continues to grow, as it doubtless will? Either an enlargement of the building or a winnowing of the cattle exhibit, eliminating old cows and breeding animals, would appear to be necessary. The former proposition is asking a good deal from the city for a show that comes but once a year, and for less than a week. The latter is not an unreasonable one, as breeding animals have no proper place in this class of show, unless the breed societies provide the funds for prizes, and then there is no good reason why bulls should not be shown as well as cows and heifers. Let more and higher prizes be offered for steers of the breeds not largely represented at present, and let the breed associations supplement the list with special prizes for steers sired by bulls of those breeds, and let us have a show of butcher's beasts and export cattle. There should be no difficulty in filling the available space with good animals of this class if sufficiently attractive prizes are hung up.

The dairy division is an interesting feature of the show, but it grows slowly and does not fairly represent that great industry. It is a question worth considering, whether a more convenient season and a more liberal prize-list would not draw out more competition and more visitors specially interested in that industry. Possibly, buttermaking competitions, a dairymen's convention, and an exhibition of dairy appliances might be combined with the milking trials and the whole made a successful drawing function and a helpful institution. Such an arrangement would afford the needed room for extended show-ring facilities and lecture-rooms.

The poultry show has proved a brilliant attraction, and is probably the greatest exhibition of its kind on this continent. It nicks well with

the fat-stock show. All grades and classes of farmers and a large proportion of town and city people are interested in poultry, and would travel a considerable distance to see a good poultry show alone. True, the ubiquitous rooster, by his conceited crowing over the beauty and industry of his wives, makes it at times unduly interesting to speakers and their audience in the lecture-room, and especially to the judges who undertake to give reasons for their decisions, but the people take these interruptions good-naturedly, and if it were a question between the poultry and the reasons, would vote for the former by a mighty majority. The system of giving reasons makes little headway. Col. Ferguson, the noted Scotch breeder who placed the awards in the export cattle classes, when asked by the authorities to favor the audience with his reasons, stated that in his country judges were instructed not to give reasons, yet he good-naturedly complied in concise and canny terms, but, of course, his voice could reach only a small portion of the audience, who heartily applauded, a demonstration in which the roosters in the gallery joined lungfully; but when the regular judges with less lung power attempted reasons, the accompaniment from the loft proved too strong, and their words were few and feeble.

The judges on this occasion were well chosen, and their work satisfactorily performed, few complaints being heard in any division.

The accommodation for visitors was improved, and while the attendance was quite up to that of former years, there was less crowding and inconvenience in the hotels, and a better service rendered. The reception committee did good work, and found comfortable homes for the people. The more pretentious hotels can do better work yet if they will but encourage their ambition to preserve the reputation of the city for the dispensing of hospitality and catering to the comfort of visitors.

The show was well sustained in every department. The entries of cattle were more numerous than ever before, and the younger classes better than on any former occasion, auguring well for future shows. Sheep were, perhaps, not so numerous as in some former years, but well up to a high standard in type and quality, while swine measured quite up to the usual standard of merit as seen at these shows.

A somewhat surprising lack in the make-up of the prize-list of so pretentious a show is the absence of a championship for the best single cattle beast in the show, a feature of supreme interest in leading exhibitions of this kind in Great Britain and the United States. If it is a matter of money, let us pass the hat and take up a collection, but do not again lower the dignity of the institution by accepting a donation from the compounders of patent stock powders for the privilege of advertising their wares in the prize-list for animals fed their condiment for a month or more. Once that system is adopted, who shall say where the limit shall be.

The prize-list in full appearing elsewhere in this issue, reference in review is made only to prominent features in each class.

CATTLE.

SHORTHORNS of pure breeding were but fairly represented in the classes for steers, the best being scarcely equal to the winners in some former years, yet the first-prize bullock in the section for steers two years old and under three, a white son of Imp. Knuckle Duster, shown by J. Fried & Sons, Roseville, and bred by A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge, was of excellent type, smoothly covered with good flesh, and is a profitable butcher's beast. The first-prize yearling steer, a red, sired by Prince William =31054=, is of similar stamp, well-fleshed on loins and ribs and free from excess of offal. He was shown by W. A. Young, Glanford, Leslie & Pearen, of Acton, won first honors in the steer calf class, with a big, fleshy white calf, by Lord Lancaster =35124=. There was nothing particularly striking in the female sections of this class, although there were many entries of good type which should have done good service as breeders, but some were barren, some had ceased to produce.