

some forty head, stood out all the time. Had he required shelter for them he could not possibly have had it. Several lots of sheep had no pens of any kind whatever, and what a filthy state the pig-places would have been in had the weather not been extremely fine. To remedy this evil two steps are requisite: In the first place, let the Board decide upon some plan of cattle-shed, which shall enable visitors to see the animals at all times, as completely sheltered as if they were in the main building, and with ease and comfort to themselves, and that having adopted such a plan the Board have some guarantee, that it be properly carried out. In the second place, let the entry books be absolutely closed a month before the show, so that a complete list of the animals entered may be forwarded to the superintendent in time for him to ensure not only plenty of room for all, but plenty of room in every particular class, so that the arrangement may be made complete throughout, and the things properly placed as they come upon the ground. Then the rule requiring the owners of stallions to pay for their stalls should be abolished. Why should a tax be put upon them which is not levied on any one else? A building should also be provided for the exhibitors of agricultural implements. Why should they be the only ones for whom no shelter is provided? These are all reforms which agricultural exhibitors expect and have a right to demand, and if they cannot be carried out on the union system, the sooner it is changed the better—at least, so say the farmers. At the coming show at Toronto, there is no reason why all this should not be done, and well done. Large roomy cattle-sheds supported by iron columns, spacious enough to hold a double row of stalls or pens, with a wide passage for visitors between them, or on each side, could be cheaply erected, and in such a manner as to be highly ornamental, and useful hereafter for any similar purpose. A somewhat similar building, only more lofty, would answer well for the implements, and another might be erected for carriages. Another suggestion I might make, which if properly carried out would be a great boon to many; it is, that some respectable person should be allowed to provide in some retired part of the ground sleeping as well as eating accommodation for herdsmen and others in charge of stock, and for them only, where they could get a good breakfast and supper, as well as a dinner, and a clean bed, no matter how coarse, at a reasonable rate, and without the inconvenience of having to go far from their work to get lodgings.

Another matter to which the attention of the Board should be directed, is the appointment of judges. The present system is one that can only be tolerated on the plea of absolute necessity, and we have seen so many instances of its inefficiency that almost any change would be advantageous. Instead of writing to the different county societies for judges, and then apportion-

ing out those that come among the different classes as is now done, it would be much better to make out a list of men who are known to be judges of different breeds, and of whom there are plenty in the country among retired farmers and others, who are not exhibitors, and by paying their expenses a sufficient number could always be got to do the work properly. Under the present system no one knows whether those who attend as judges in the different classes really understand their business or not; and to give an instance of how utterly ignorant the sometimes are of what they profess to know, a judge of Short-woolled sheep at one exhibition on being shown a Merino, asked whether it was not a Southdown! Such things are of constant occurrence, and under the system now in vogue it is impossible to avoid it.

Another suggestion which I have been requested to bring into notice, is, the desirability of giving ribbons to the successful animals immediately on the decision of the judges being made. This is done in the States, and used to be the custom here, and would add much to the interest of the proceedings.

Might we not also adopt the plan of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and have a printed catalogue of the cattle and implements exhibited, so that any person having one of them might by merely looking at the number of the ticket refer to the corresponding entry, and there ascertain without further trouble all the particulars that he could possibly desire, as to the owner of the animal or implement, and, in case of the former, its pedigree, &c. A sufficient number of such a catalogue might be sold to cover all the cost of printing them.

The next exhibition will, I hope, be held under the patronage of our new Governor General, who is ranked as one of the first agriculturists and breeders in Ireland, and who we may therefore expect to take a very lively interest in the influence of our association.

I cannot conclude without briefly referring to the disgraceful manner in which the municipal authorities of London permitted the most outrageous and barefaced gambling to go on from daylight to dark, outside the gates of the exhibition ground, in open violation of law and decency. This has never been permitted before, and I trust that it never will be again. No one who saw the way in which it was carried on, and the mischievous results which followed, could help feeling that, however handsomely the local authorities may have acted in other respects, in this they were deserving of the severest censure.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

CHARRING.—The best method of charring the surface of wood, is to wet it with the most highly concentrated oil of vitriol. By this means you carbonize not only the outer surface but the surface of all the cracks and holes—

Chemical Times.