

Neither is reversion confined to crosses, for instances will show themselves even in the purest breeds. For example, the occurrence of small horns which often happens in polled breeds of cattle and sheep, may be looked upon as cases of reversion. Darwin says there is reason to believe that sheep, in their early domesticated condition, were brown or dingy black, and several ancient writers describe the Spanish sheep as being black, red, or tawny, and he attributes to reversion the occurrence of black and dark-coloured lambs which are sometimes dropped by Southdowns and other pure-bred sheep. Even the Leicester, which have been very carefully bred since the time of Bakewell, now and then throw grey-faced, black-spotted, or even wholly black lambs. The frequent occurrence of white animals in the short-horn breed of cattle, notwithstanding the general dislike to this colour, may be explained on the doctrine of reversion. It is well known that white cattle were at one time very common in England, and there is reason to think that some of the original wild breeds were white. It has also been observed that in various pure breeds of the domestic pigeon, blue-birds having the characteristic marks of the wild rock dove will occasionally appear. There is no doubt, however, that such cases are comparatively rare, and the general experience of breeders shows that any remarkable divergence from the established type of a particular race is unusual in well-bred animals.

FOOD FOR BREEDING SOWS.—A correspondent of the Michigan Farmer writes: Fed my breeding sows most of the time on turnips, the sweet Russia, or Jenny Linds as they are called here. This was their food during the latter part of the winter, and until grass grew, when they entered into the clover. They eat them readily, and thrive on them. I consider corn very injurious to breeding sows, especially to the finer breeds. Potatoes and slops from the house are also good. I consider sugar beets very valuable for feeding breeding sows and store hogs, and I shall raise an acre for that purpose.

Origin of Chester White Pigs.

The republication of A. B. Allen's article on China and Berkshire pigs, prompts me to give my views of the origin of the Chester Whites. About 20 years ago a statement was published in the Farm Journal to the effect that Capt. James Jeffries, who traded between Liverpool, Eng., and Wilmington, Del., and whose home was on a farm in Chester County, Pa., introduced two pigs from Bedfordshire, Eng., and that from these the Chester Whites are descended. I always doubted this theory of their origin, for the reason that I pretty well remember the development of the breed, and I never heard of the Bedfordshire pigs until the author of the article above alluded to bought,

I think, Capt. Jeffries's farm, and taking his statement about it, gave the world the above history of their origin, as the Captain gave it to him.

I distinctly remember that about 40 years ago, which was some years before the pigs of Chester and Delaware Counties were called Chester Whites, my father and some of his neighbors had the Chinese pigs, or, as they were then sometimes called the No-boned pigs. The description given of them by Mr. Allen is perfect, except that ours were all white. Their characteristics may be understood by the following incident, of which I was an eye-witness. On hog-butchering day, which is, or used to be, a great event on a farm, and the boys were allowed to stay at home from school, the neighbours were invited to assist, and smart active fellows were in demand to catch and hold the hogs while one skilled in the business, 'stuck' the poor victim with a long knife that reached the arch of the main artery. The pigs of Delaware County at that day were generally large, coarse animals, that yielded a good weight of pork, but required an immense amount of grain to make them fit for butchering. On such a day, after the pen of pigs had about all of them yielded to fate, two men were sent to the orchard with a wheelbarrow to bring in a full bred China pig that had fattened on apples and grass alone. The little fellow weighed less than 200 lbs., and was so fat and round, and his legs were so short, that when he was 'stuck' an operation to which he could offer very little resistance, he rolled to the foot of the hill, a distance of about 70 yards. My father was very fond of all kinds of domesticated stock, and was considered a successful grazer and breeder, and his efforts to improve the large and coarse breed of hogs by crossing with the China pigs are within my own recollection. What his neighbors were doing in the same direction at the same time, I was too young to know, but I do know that my father was noted for having about the best pigs in his county. So long as he lived, which was to 1845, he had the best pigs that I saw any where—better than the Berkshires that were first imported about that time. The Pigs of Chester and Delaware Counties were gradually improved from about 1830 to the time when they attracted public attention and received the name of Chester Whites, which was after the introduction and rejection of Berkshires and some other breeds, all of which were found to be inferior to our own stock.

During all this period of gradual improvement, I never heard the name of Bedfordshire or any other name that might express the English pigs imported by Capt. Jeffries, and I know that the China pigs were one of the elements of the improvement, and have no reason to doubt that they were the only foreign element. I never heard when they came to us, and who brought them, nor do I know to what extent they were distributed

as pure breeds among the farmers of Chester and Delaware Counties. Of course, every body who bred pigs, took some care to select the best to breed from, and these 'best' were a cross with the large and coarse native hog with the small and fine China hog. Breeders aimed to get the large size of the one combined with the fine quality of the other, and they appear to have hit the mark aimed at. The great demand for them, and the ease with which frauds could be perpetrated, have flooded the country with spurious animals under that name, but it is worthy of note that here no other breed of pigs has ever maintained a reputation two years after it was first puffed into popular notice. An impartial trial always reinstates the home breed, no matter at what mortification and loss to the experimenter with foreign breeds. (ELLWOOD HARVEY, of Chester, Delaware, Co., Pa., in *Country Gentleman*.)

Clover for Hogs.

An Ohio hog raiser advocates the system of pasturing on clover during the summer. He presents, as the advantage of this plan, the statement that an acre of ground in clover will pasture five hogs four months, and it will take the corn from half an acre to feed them the same time. The cultivation of the corn he counts equal to the rest of the other half acre. He further claims that hogs pastured on clover are in far better condition than if fed on corn, as they are better framed, healthier, and eat better, and also states that the land is enriched by the clover pasturing.

Importing Stock.

Mr. George Isaacs of Haldimand claims has just returned from a visit to Scotland, and has brought out with him two fine young horses, six excellent short-horn heifers and a bull of the same breed, and also four splendid sheep. Mr. Isaacs deserves great credit for importing superior stock upon several occasions, and we trust that while they will be a benefit to the country, they will also be profitable to himself. Mr. Isaacs has our best wishes for his success in the matter.

Selecting Rams.

The first and most important qualification of a stock ram is constitution. No matter how perfect he may be in every other particular, if he is defective in this one point he is worthless. His stock will be feeble, short-lived, poor breeders, and always ailing. Constitution is to be determined by the full, robust, physical development, the deep, full chest, giving ample room for the vital organs; a uniform development of all the parts, giving a look of strength and vigor, and by family antecedents. The ram should not only be all right himself but he should