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THE
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homely advice on this subject which will be read with interest by all showmen and especially by the novices:

"It used to be a common thing to hear prominent exhibitors say of certain herdsman who had the habit of winning pretty nearly every blue he ever showed for, that he could get more out of an animal in the ring than any man in America. Time and again the writer has heard this remark made of this particular herdsman, by men who are supposed to be posted. In subsequent years I was enabled to observe this man and his tactics closely.

"My first introduction came at Des Moines when he called to some 'new recruit,' 'Ere, kid. Say, take that 'eifer out and 'old 'er, will you?' In due time the lad, who had possibly and even likely never led an animal into the ring before in his life, returned carrying the red ribbon.

"This was the rule throughout the entire showing. The man who was the expert stayed in the barns and got his cattle ready for the ring. As they were thoroughly halter broken, any dummy could hold them, while the man who drew \$100 per month for knowing how stayed in the barn. His part was to curl the coats, to dress the hair so the weak points in the animal's make-up would show least conspicuously; also to fit the halter, to polish the hoofs, horns, etc. He was, of course, seen in the ring when the groups were shown. Then he was needed. But at other times he was usually engaged in the barns. His only appearance in the ring would be in some class where the rub was unusually close; when interest was at fever heat. Then his presence could be accounted for by mere curiosity. Even then he sometimes carried a brush or other implement from his work in the barn, to which he shortly returned. Or, if he did hold an occasional animal (as he usually did in the older bull classes), his scientific sidesteps or necromancy to deceive or fool the judge was conspicuous by its absence. Now the point is here. This man was an expert feeder of show cattle. His charges were usually in better flesh and condition than most of the other entries. They were sent into the ring in the best of condition and fairly submitted to the honest judgment of an expert judge. His work had been done through an entire year preceding the show. There was no attempt at doing the work of months by some fancy work in the ring.

"Nevertheless there is sometimes a wrong way to do things. I think I can best explain by giving some examples that have come under my observation. "Previously I have told of the man who kept an old paunchy bull for three days and nights without feed or water in August, hoping to reduce his paunch. This was worse than useless.

"Some years ago there was a determined effort made by the Hereford talent to weed out cattle with a pit in the back. Those familiar with conditions eight or ten years back will recall that it was no infrequent occurrence for an outstanding champion to be shut out of the money entirely by some overzealous judge, simply because of a dimple of inconsequent dimensions. It was at about this time that the writer saw a herdsman lead an aged bull out for his rating. There were some eight or ten entries and this particular comer was second or third into the ring. Stopping squarely in front of the judges' stand, he sent his helper back to the barn for a brush or on some similar errand. Then going around to the animal's side he discovered a pit at the coupling, over which, or around which, the hair was well curled. Perhaps this pit was about the size and depth of his cob pipe. He inserted a finger, raked out some old hairs, raked and blew them away. Then reached on down. Here he struck a layer of hay or straw chaff and below that an almost inexhaustible vein of scurf or dandruff, all of which was raked off and exposed to public view under the very nose of the judge. Of course, the judge saw the pit, and he knew others had also. Really the bull looked plenty good enough for some ribbon, even almost for the blue. But he would have been a rash judge, indeed, who would have awarded a prize of any sort after the showing made."

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