

Stock and Dairy.

The Effect of Fashion in Stock Matters.

The results of some recent sales of pure-bred stock of different breeds are well worth more than a passing notice. It has never yet occurred that a class of stock, however popular it may have been for a time, included in itself every valuable characteristic. We have never yet had one breed or class of cattle that met every requirement of the farmer, dairyman, grazier or butcher. It is not probable that we shall ever produce or possess such a breed. When any one breed or class of cattle threatens to become so popular as to cause all others to be neglected, and to seriously reduce their marketable value, past experience would lead us to expect that the climax of its popularity has been reached. We learned this lesson a few years ago, when no sheep except Merinos were considered worth keeping, and we may be in danger of receiving another similar lesson before long in regard to Shorthorn stock of the more fashionable sorts. The recent sales of Shorthorns in Kentucky, and of Ayrshires and Devons elsewhere, go to prove this unmistakably. In the Kentucky sales it is noticeable that Shorthorns, of excellent and good pedigree, sold for prices that were equivalent to their value for beef and no more; while a three month's calf of a more favored family, undeveloped and of no certain promise as to the future, brought the remarkable price of \$17,500, and has since been resold for \$22,000. Such an occurrence is strong evidence that, so far as regards these fashionable cattle, we are in the well developed stage of a decided mania. When \$15,000 was offered and refused for a Merino ram, not many years, we were in just such an excited condition, from which we soon emerged to find the price of rams fell to \$50, or in some cases as low as \$10, which was somewhere about their intrinsic value. Not long since those excellent cattle, the Devons and the Ayrshires, for some localities and circumstances unsurpassed by any breed whatever, bore a money value somewhat on a par with their real worth. But the past few months some of these cattle, of faultless character and high breeding, have been either offered without buyers, or have been sold at prices below those which could have been realized for extra good native stock. Of the Herefords, at one time considered to be the peers of Shorthorns for the production of cheap and excellent meat, upon moderately strong pastures, nothing is now heard, and they are almost entirely neglected. The owner of a well known herd of Ayrshire cattle recently sold his stock for a small portion of their value, to make room for a herd of Shorthorns. The excellent herd of Devons owned by Mr. Mattson, of Springfield, Mass., was recently withdrawn from public sale on account of the inadequate prices offered. The result may be unfortunate for those persons who, at this late period of the excitement in regard to Shorthorns, go into the speculation of breeding them, with insufficient capital, or without the nerve to bear possible future losses without repining; and it will be equally unfortunate for those who are tempted to neglect the improvement of their stock by means of unfashionable breeds, because of the present neglect with which these breeds are regarded, or because they are dazzled by the more brilliant record of others which are beyond their reach. The Shorthorn may be the most profitable animal to keep on the blue-grass pastures of Kentucky or Ohio, or the rich valleys of the Mohawk or the Genesee, or wherewith to cross the long-legged and long-horned Texan; but it cannot be kept with profit where it is obliged to climb hills to its pasture, nor where the meadows are not always in condition for the scythe; nor can it be profitably fed in stalls upon meal. It has its place, and it will fill that better than any other breed. But so has the Hereford, the placid, gentle feeder which never loses an ounce of flesh through ill-temper or nervousness, and which thrives upon second-rate pastures, and makes a heavy weight of the best beef. So also has the Devon, which, as a working ox, surpasses any other, and which, on hill pastures, will produce most acceptable beef with profit. Neither can the reputation which the Ayrshire has acquired in two centuries as an excellent dairy cow, be suddenly destroyed by the Shorthorn, which for nearly a hundred years has been daily losing its dairy qualities by a course of high feeding and breeding. It is said that the best time for one to acquire a good thing cheaply is when everybody else is anxious to dispose of it, and, if

this be true, it is certainly a good time now to procure excellent pure bred stock of the neglected varieties, while the majority of breeders are pursuing the more promising but more risky business of dealing solely in Shorthorns.

Courage of an Importer.

We have the following account of a case of unwavering courage and enterprise, and publish it to show how much of expense and labor sometimes attend the introduction of improved animals from other countries.

Mr. John S. Harris, of California reached Baltimore yesterday by the steamship Sardinian, from Liverpool, with twelve Angora goats, which he brought all the way from Asia Minor, after a most romantic and difficult journey, occupying a year. Angora and Cashmere goats had been considered identical, but a sample of real Cashmere wool, sent to Mr. Harris from Madras, disclosed the fact that it was essentially different from the wool grown on goats called Angoras, which he and others owned in this country. This discovery led the adventurous breeder to go to Asia and learn for himself, as well as to study the habits and mode of raising goats, with a view to making them profitable in the Sierras of California. He started April 16, 1875, from California, via Japan and China, intending to go overland into Tibet, but found that impracticable. He then went to Calcutta, and, going through India, reached the Cashmere district, and saw the animals for which he had made so great a journey. He found the Cashmere goats covered with a rather sparse coat of coarse, long, black hair, under which is a fleece of extremely white, silk-like wool, used in the manufacture of Indian shawls and other goods that are so highly prized for their fineness of texture and capability for receiving and retaining colors. The home of the Cashmere goat is in the Himalaya Mountains, 22,000 feet above the level of the sea, in a region of eternal snows. There are no cashmere goats in America. The traveller found these goats could not be profitably acclimated in California, but he gained the information that mohair wool goats can be successfully raised in a high altitude and low latitude, such as the Sierras of Southern California. Mr. Harris concluded then to go to Angora, but found he could not go overland on account of war, nor via the Persian Gulf on account of the unsettled state of the country. He therefore returned to Calcutta, and went via Ceylon, Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Suez Canal to Port Said, over the Taurus Mountains, in crossing which he was occupied twenty-one days, and suffered intensely from cold, snow, etc., with no other food but native black bread and a kind of molasses. When finally he reached Angora and bought his goats—two rams and ten ewes—he ran short of money, and had to telegraph to California for a credit at Constantinople. He borrowed from a friendly Scotchman, and started for the coast. He had nine mules and three donkeys, on which the precious goats were slung in boxes, while other of the animals were loaded with provender and baggage. He tried to reach Smyrna, but, after floundering in the mountains some days, was obliged to return to Angora. There he found money from his partner, paid his debts and the export duty and "bucksheesh" demanded by the Turks. He went from Constantinople to Liverpool, and thence to Baltimore in safety. Mr. Harris says that, including all his expenses since leaving home, the goats have thus far cost him \$525 apiece in gold, or a total of \$6,300, and he has yet to take them across the continent to California by rail. Mr. Harris is a middle-aged Scotchman, decidedly modest, and does not think he has performed a remarkable journey in the wilds of Central and Western Asia. When he left California he and his partner had 1,700 goats on their ranges at Hollister, Benito county, where he has been seventeen years. He thinks he has found that, by proper breeding, California is especially adapted to producing mohair wools. The goats on the Sardinian are smaller than the ordinary animals, and have long silken fleeces of white wool. Both sexes have flat, corrugated horns about eighteen inches long, that diverge from the front of the head. All are yearlings, and show no ill effects from their travels. Several kids have been born since leaving Angora, one of which, several days old, is alive and well. The goats were visited by thousands of people at Liverpool, where Mr. Harris was a sort of lion. He has with him specimens of Cashmere and other wools, together with their manufactured products, obtained in Asia.

How to Make Stock Pay.

One of the most interesting questions to the farmer just now is, how to make the most out of his stock. The common native stock of this country is not sufficiently profitable. It produces too little beef, butter, wool, mutton, pork and lard, and it takes too long to produce what it does, to be profitable in this rapidly moving age. Farmers must float with the stream of improvement or they will find themselves cast high and dry upon the banks. Feed is the farmer's raw material, and his stock the machinery from which he manufactures his wares. No matter how skillfully he feeds it, if his machines are imperfect or slow in action, his wares necessarily cost too much. To improve his machinery, that is, the stock which he feeds, is as needful as to study how to feed. All the investigations and experiments he, and others for him, can make, go for nothing if the animals he feeds cannot digest and assimilate the food in sufficient quantity to turn it into saleable material fast enough. In order that this may be done more rapidly, breeders have for years been improving their stock. Cattle, sheep and pigs of improved breeds come to maturity and reach double their weight at half the age of the unimproved breeds. Unfortunately we are bewildered when we hear and read of the marvellous prices at which some of these animals are sold. Clearly they are out of the farmer's reach. But it is wrong to suppose that he is therefore debarred from improving his stock by the use of improved animals. The past month over 1,000 head of Shorthorn cattle have been sold at various public sales. Many of these have been of the fancy sort, valued at very high prices for their pedigrees. No complaint can be made if a wealthy man chooses to give \$10,000 for one of these animals, any more than if he gave the same amount for a diamond. He injures no one, and does at least some good with his surplus money. But fortunately he has no monopoly of the really good cattle. A good judge of stock would be equally or better satisfied with an animal that at the same sale brings but \$200 or \$300, simply because his family is not so fashionable, or it has not "so sweet a head."—*American Agriculturist*.

Milk and Meat.

Dr. Schneider, of Thionville, France, treats an important subject from a new point of view. He demands, why not encourage precocity in animals for milk, as well as for meat? In the latter case the object is to fatten an animal in 36 instead of 60 months, by good feeding. On the contrary, the powers of reproduction, that is, the yielding of milk, are most active or precocious where the diet is sober, if not miserable. Poor families are most prolific, and weeds most productive. Cundity is the ally of humble rations, and fat the emblem of opulence, is not an attribute of virility. Embonpoint is incompatible with the faculty of generation. If a sterile cow or an ox exact 36 months and good diet to be precociously converted into meat, a heifer could, in that period, have produced upon a regimen, one calf, perhaps two, and from twelve to fourteen months of milk. Production of milk is less costing than that of meat; it can be less expensively disposed of, and if milk has increased in price, so also have butter and cheese. The properties for fattening and milking are but one and the same thing, and pre-exist in the animal, only both aptitudes cannot be developed at the same time. Thus in France, Dutch or Normand cows are kept for the express purpose of yielding milk to the calves of Durham breed.—*Western Farm Journal*.

Pneumonia in Pigs.

C. A. W. asks:—Can you give us a remedy for "Thumps" in hogs?

Answer—Give fifteen drops of extract of gelseminum—mornings, noons, and evenings—until febrile symptoms disappear. Inflammation of the lungs in pigs runs its course rapidly, and may be considered generally fatal, if not taken in hand as soon as the first symptoms appear, such as hard breathing (generally mistaken for so-called thumps), shivering, loss of appetite, cough, etc. Half an ounce of hyposulphite of soda, or two drachms of saltpetre, should be given in a little gruel every morning, and the animals kept warm, dry and comfortable. Indeed, if a little more attention were paid to the cleanliness and comfort of pigs, "thumps," and other diseases among them, would be much less frequent than they are. Place fresh cold water within reach of the pigs, and remove it mornings and evenings.—*National Live Stock Journal*.