

The Bath and West of England Show.

NOTES ON SHEEP, SWINE, AND DAIRY SECTIONS.

This annual meeting took place this year in the old town of Cardiff. The sheep were, as a rule, not at all well represented, the principal exceptions being the Devon Long-wool and Shropshire breeds. Cotswolds came out fairly well, Mr. R. Swanwick being the principal winner, as at the Oxford County Show, although the second ram from Mr. McCalmont's flock might have gone higher up. Ram lambs were as above, and yearling ewes only one moderate pair forward. Devon Long-wools were well and strongly shown. Evidently there is being made a commendable effort to increase the demand for this hardy breed of sheep. Southdowns were most disappointing, both in regard to number of entries as well as to quality. No single exhibit could be called tiptop. Earl Cadogan led the way in two classes, ram and ewes, and Mr. C. R. W. Adeane in the ram lamb class with a pair of capital lambs, the best and most typical exhibit in the section. Hampshire Downs made a very second-rate exhibit. Some few typical and useful sheep were present, but these were not so numerous as one would have expected them to be at this important show. Lord Rothschild took the ram prize, and two out of three in the ram lambs, but these latter awards were certainly lucky ones, for a far and away better pen of Mr. A. de Mornay's was placed after them. The leading pen in this class came from Mr. L. H. Baxendale's flock. Yearling ewes found a grand pen of Mr. A. de Mornay's to the fore. Shropshires were very strongly shown. Mr. J. Bowen Jones led the way in both the ram and ewe classes, in which the competition was very close indeed. Mrs. M. Barrs, W. F. Inge, and J. Harding were winners in the ram class, and in the ewe class Mr. P. L. Mills, Mrs. M. Barrs, and Mr. A. Tanner. Ram lambs not so strong a class, which ought to have been headed by Mr. A. Bradburn's pen that came second, but was headed by Mr. W. F. Inge's pen, a good skinned pen, but not of the quality and handle that Bradburn's pen had. Oxford Downs, which were a weak lot, even at the Oxfordshire Show, where in days gone by one always found this breed in strong force, was this year provided for by one of the most moderate ram classes we have ever seen, and here at Cardiff the leading winner was a sheep that failed to get a cash prize at Oxford Show, owing to those of his competitors who were more successful than he not being present. Ram lambs and yearling ewes were such that the least said the better. Dorset Horns were fairly well shown, the ram lambs of Mr. W. R. Flower being first and second, and were about the best, most level and even pens of this breed seen out for some years. This breeder was also successful in the ram classes, and Mr. H. McCalmont took the lead in yearling ewes.

Pigs.—Berkshires were present in good numbers, and generally speaking, their quality and merit was of a very averaged standard of merit. In the boar classes the principal winners were Messrs. J. Jefferson, R. Swanwick, E. Burbridge, N. Benjafield, and J. Lawrence, commended. For sows, in strong competition, E. Burbridge and J. A. Fricker led the way, J. Jefferson, N. Benjafield, J. Lawrence and R. Swanwick also coming in for notice. Large Whites were small in number but good in quality, the premiums being divided between Sir G. Greenall and Messrs. S. Spencer and F. Allmand. Middle Whites were fully shown, and many first-class pigs were to be seen therein. Messrs. S. Spencer, Sir G. Greenall, A. C. Twenlyman and Hon. P. D. Bouyerie proved to be invincible, taking the whole of the best prizes; whilst in the Tamworths Mr. R. Ibbotson had the classes all to himself, his exhibits being, however, of very great and good merit.

The Dairy Section at this show is a most important one, and it has earned a well-deserved reputation of being one of the most important held during the summer season as well as being about the best and most thoroughly well-managed one. The butter tests, the exhibit both of butter and cheese, were all one could wish for, and many valuable and useful lessons were doubtless gathered up by the large number of visitors who flocked to see the exhibits and hear the lectures, and watch the competitions that took place.

Oxfordshire (England) County Show.

This fixture is one of the most important of the earlier summer shows; in fact, it, to many of the principal sheep exhibitors, is the starting point of what you, in your country, term the "fair circuit." This meeting is the one at which the Oxford Down sheep show out in greatest number, and doubtless the classes we saw thereat, in respect to numbers, will not be exceeded at future shows this year. Mr. A. Brassey is not showing at all this year, so that one misses his well-known exhibits. These were particularly missed in the shearing ram class, in which there were few really first-class show sheep. The winner was one of Mr. Treadwell's, and he also

took the breed championship with him. We did not like his color nor the way he stood on his legs. Messrs. C. Hobbs & Son came second with a better sheep in respect to type and color, but a bit weak outside the thigh. Mr. J. C. Eady was third with a very taking sheep. Ram lambs a useful class; Messrs. W. Arkell and A. H. Wilsden securing the awards. Shearing ewes were headed by a grand pen. Mr. J. C. Eady most deservedly secured therewith the championship of the yard, and his second pen, equally good as the former, were most excellent. Ewe lambs were fully representative, but those selected for the first awards were not of so good a style or quality as Mr. A. H. Stilgoe's, which took second place. Hampshire Downs were, in the ram and ewe classes, very strong indeed, and the chief honors, not only in these classes, but in several others, went to Earl Carnarvon, whose flock is rapidly pushing its way to the fore. Both Mr. J. Flower and Mr. A. de Mornay, who won first in the shearing ewe class, were well to the fore, exhibiting first-class specimens of this breed. Southdowns were present in strong force, and the championship of the breed went to a ram lamb out of the pen of three who secured first premium in their class, from that well-known and noted flock of the Pagham Harbour Co., Selsey England. This ram lamb, and, indeed, the whole of this flock's representatives, was of first-class quality, type and character, such as few, if any, of the flocks could produce. Earl Cadogan secured second for shearing rams and the award for shearing ewes. Both pens will probably in future shows turn tables on their more successful competitors which came from Sir James Blyth's flock. Shropshires were not fully representative, but the winning sheep

we are enabled to say that the .32 of an acre of rape saved 1,062 pounds of grain, or that an acre would be worth 3,318 pounds of grain.

In another trial with two lots of 19 in each, conducted in the same manner, and fed the same rations for seven weeks, the rape lot ate 2,220.3 pounds of maize, 1,109 pounds of shorts, .6 of an acre of rape, and gained 1,066 pounds. The penned lot ate 3,106.5 pounds of maize, 1,553 pounds of shorts, and gained 1,076 pounds. The gain is practically the same in this instance also, so that it may be said that the .610 of an acre of rape saved 886.2 pounds of maize and 444 pounds of shorts, or that one acre of rape is worth 2,217 pounds of grain. The average of the two trials indicates that an acre of rape is worth 2,767 pounds of such grain as we fed for fattening pigs.

The two trials that have been made indicate that this crop is likely to prove as valuable for swine feeding as it is for sheep. There is less risk in feeding it to swine, as they do not bloat on it nor scour if fed properly. It gives every promise of proving an excellent crop for pasturing brood sows and young pigs. It is very evident that for late summer or early fall pasturing it is especially valuable. At that season of the year, when it is hot and dusty, swine are most liable to have fevers, cholera, and other derangements, and there is no doubt but that pasturing them on such a succulent crop as rape would add to their thrift and vigor, and thereby lessen the losses that occur in these months. Rape seems specially valuable for swine feeding during the hot summer months, because of its succulence and the relish of swine for it, and for these reasons we would urge our swine breeders and feeders to try it on a small scale for this purpose.

Rearing Young Bulls.

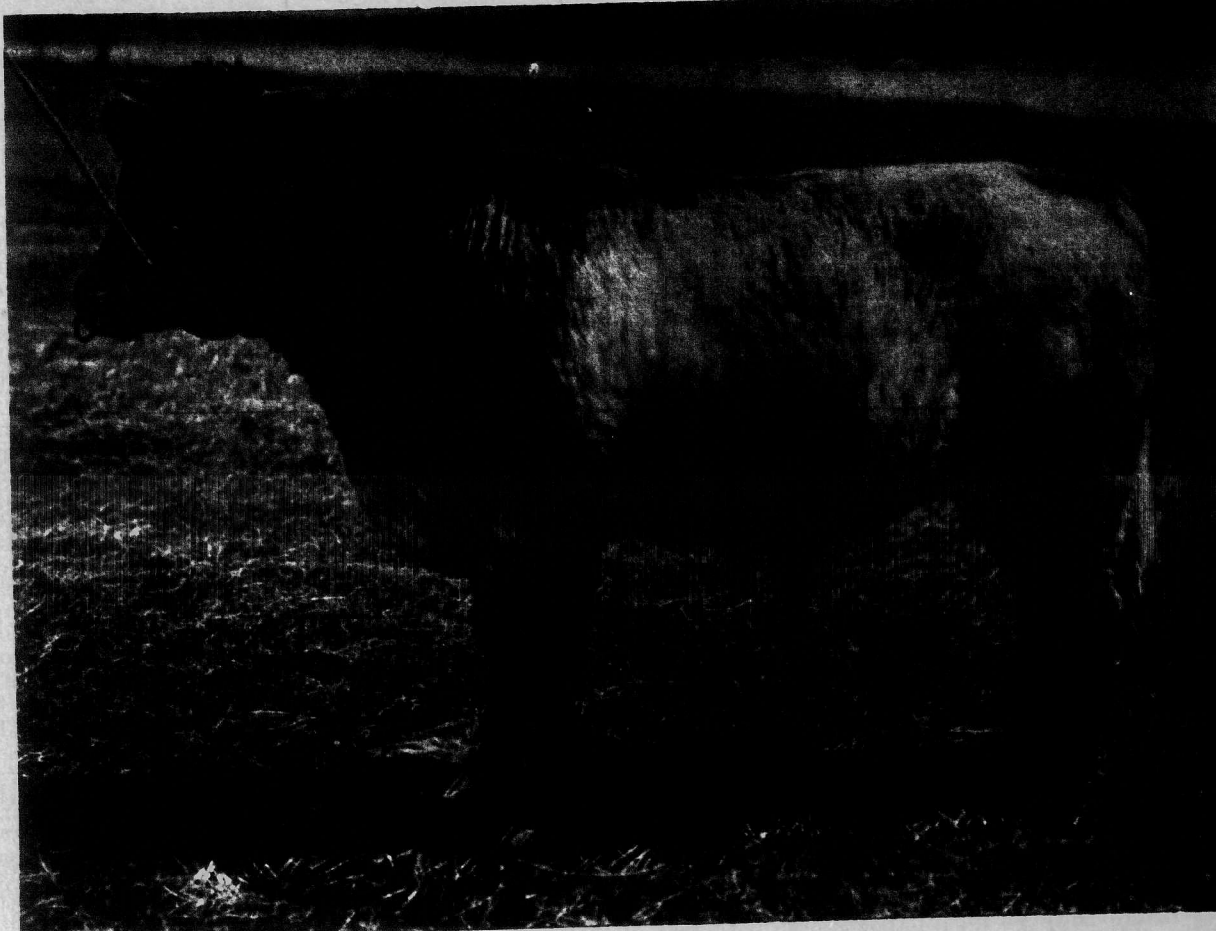
Perhaps at the present, more than at any time in the past, breeders are purchasing bull calves under a year rather than those of greater age. Numbers of breeders report that it will be with difficulty that they can retain bull calves in the herd to meet the trade of next spring for animals fit for service. Now, it is important that these young animals be given the right attention, which is not well understood, especially by beginners with such stock. Whatever method is pursued, it should be the one object of his owner to make him fit for service by producing a strong frame, with plenty of vigor and activity. One of the common mistakes made with such animals, especially when a good price has been paid for him, is to keep him in too close confinement, which, if he is well fed, is nearly certain to send him wrong on his legs. He is especially liable to go back over his heels greatly disfiguring him and injuring him for service. If obtained as a calf in spring, he should be turned out

during the nights through the summer, and given a roomy box and plenty of yard exercise the following winter. It is a good practice to accustom him to be led about with the halter, and will assuredly result in less trouble with him afterwards; in fact, every bull calf should be thoroughly halter-broken before a ring is put in his nose.

If fed milk, though not necessarily sucking a cow, for four or five months, and afterwards given ground oats, bran, and a little oil cake, along with good fodder, he will be fit to serve a limited number of heifers and small cows at twelve to thirteen months old. He will have plenty of time during the following summer to pick up his strength and vigor again, and having more framework and strength, will be fit for general service throughout the herd in the following autumn. It is a great mistake to turn a young bull out with the herd during his first or even second service summer. He will not only do himself injury, but while some of the females will be served too often, others are liable to be missed.

During the time of service it is recommended by E. Brand, in *The Farmer and Stockbreeder*, the young bull's food should be slightly on the increase, and of somewhat more nitrogenous composition. Musty hay should be avoided, and liberal feeding of oats, bran and oil cake, along with swedes and savory cut hay, will fortify him against the double tax of growth and service.

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THE YEARLING BULL, INDIAN NOBLEMAN, ONE OF THE LAST SONS OF IMPORTED INDIAN CHIEF; BREED BY ARTHUR JOHNSTON, GREENWOOD, ONT.; NOW IN THE HERD OF W. S. LISTER, MARCHMONT FARM, MIDDLECHURCH, MAN.

from Mr. A. Bradburn, G. L. Foster-Harter and Mr. M. Cooper were fully typical of their breed. Cotswolds were but small in numbers, but the quality was good, particularly in the case of Mr. R. Swanwick's ram, who secured the award as best ram of all breeds in the yard. This sheep and his flock-mates secured all the first prizes for their owner.

Rape for Pigs.

At various times, says an American bulletin, we have tried feeding pigs on rape, and it has always been satisfactory, though it would sometimes be necessary to restrict the other feed that the pigs were receiving until they became acquainted with the taste of the plant. We have made two experiments, including, in all, fifty-eight pigs, with the definite object of determining the feeding value of rape. In both these experiments one lot of pigs were penned and fed soaked maize and also shorts in a sloop. The grain was fed in the proportion of two parts maize and one part shorts by weight. The other lot had in addition to this grain a limited piece of rape. The pigs were fed so as to secure a satisfactory gain in both instances, but the amount of grain fed to those on rape was less than that given the penned pigs, that they might eat the rape more freely and make as nearly as possible the same gain as the others. In the first trial the ten pigs on rape ate in 76 days 1,386 pounds of maize, 600 pounds of shorts, .32 of an acre of rape, and gained 853 pounds. The other lot penned ate 2,006 pounds of maize, 1,042 pounds of shorts, and gained 857 pounds. The gain is practically the same, so that