

And now we will venture a word or two on the French sheep. France possesses a contingent; but still is much indebted to us for the introduction of the Southdown and Dish-blood, which certainly has worked wonders for the flock-masters. The prize of honour was with a pen of pure-bred Southdowns, which display great beauty and maturity. The taste, however, induces too much delicacy of constitution, if this can be in any way indicated by the ears. The wool is much shorter also than those of Lord Walsingham's 10 months run with which we compared them. The average length and girth of English Downs is 26 inches and 3 feet 7½ inches, the age 10 months, and the weight 327 kilogrammes. The best 12 months sheep weighed 342 kilos., measured in length 2 ft. 2½ in., and girthed 3 ft.; the wool on the former being 2 in. long. As though the same reasons we adduce for esteeming the Shorthorns as more valuable in France to mould other native breeds, than just alone, might apply to the Down. The state of France is certainly well adapted to them; but they will require a pretty frequent rotation of our blood to keep them vigorous. The result of crosses here shown with Berri sheep are exceedingly good. The result of the show on this side is presented by the Grey Merinos. The Merino was introduced by France by Louis XVI., for the increase of wool. The result has been enormous; but now the Australian Colonies are cutting them out of the market for short wool, and Merino is becoming more valuable, a cross of greatest value has been obtained. A lustre has been reached, and a vast increase of wool. We have here the improved Rambouillet Merino and the Dishley Merino. No one can better show how these creatures are clay in the hands of the potter. The crosses with Berri sheep give a very fine fine sheep. There is no necessity to mention the rabbit-eared Larzac or the calf-headed Merinos; but of the silky-woolled Mauchamp, the result of a mischance ably handled, of the Charnoise, the result of a chance between a Berri sheep and English ram, it may be said that they produce the highest qualities, and are worthy of careful development. As to the pigs we have already said that of the French and British classes, we come to the general conclusion that, although our neighbours advanced at so surprising a rate since the Poissy Show, they have done so by handling crosses we have given them in the most skillful manner, and that, if they could continue to do so, they will still be continually obliged to us for new blood. There are some practical considerations in connexion with this conclusion which cannot now be touched. While we are careful to keep the lead, it seems to be a strong and steady demand

upon us for pedigree stock of all descriptions, and the more they improve the more will this demand increase.

The Royal Dublin Society's Spring Cattle Show.

The *Irish Farmer's Gazette* of April 26th contains an elaborate report of the Spring exhibition of this influential, and long established Society, which has done so much not only for the Agricultural but the Mechanical and Artistic interests of Ireland. The live stock in point of numbers and quality were quite equal to former occasions, which is a significant and encouraging fact after the past two very unfavorable seasons. In consequence of manufactories being so much engaged in preparing for the International Show in London there was some falling off in the implement department. The tone of the report of this meeting is hopeful, notwithstanding the depression which Ireland experiences in common with other parts of the United Kingdom, from the late unfavourable seasons and the American difficulties.—We make room for the following observations, which will be perused with interest by many of our readers:—

Mr. G. W. Maunsell said it became his duty to call upon his colleague, Dr. Steele, the assistant-secretary to the society, to read the prizes that day bestowed upon the successful competitors. Taking the present show as a reflex of the enterprise, industry, and prosperity of the country, they had no reason to fear that its future agricultural prospects would not be everything that its friends could wish. Extraordinary advantages had accrued to all sections of agriculture by the way in which the society's shows had been fostered and carried out for many years. As the interest of Ireland in them had increased, the energies of the Royal Dublin Society had been taxed to no small extent to provide accommodation. For many years they had lived, it might be said, in temporary sheds; but they were now enabled to hold their shows in a noble hall, which during the last twelve months had been the scene of an exhibition which did credit to the national industry and taste, and which had been visited by the heir apparent to these realms, and also for the last time by the illustrious Prince who presided over the society. That exhibition had scarcely closed when the increasing wants of the society drove them to extend their premises in a new direction; and they had hardly by the removal of some houses and masonry been enabled on this occasion to give the