

This was so especially in regard to several pieces of wheat, the square head variety appearing to be a favourite. The beans had quite a magnificent look about them, and owing to having been planted in double rows, with wide intervals for horse-hoeing, they were entirely free of charlock. Moreover their bloom was so profuse that if they only escape "green dragon" they will be likely to pod abundantly. Mangel wurzel, too, appeared forward and thriving. The novel practice had been resorted to of planting cabbages into the few gaps where the wurzel had failed. Kohl rabi and thousand-headed kale have often been made use of to perform the like service, but whether cabbages will do equally well only experience can show. The young swedes had escaped the fly, but had not been singled out when inspected in the Royal Show week. Artificial manures are mostly relied on for roots, 4 cwt. per acre of superphosphate being put in with the seed and some nitrate of soda sown broadcast after the thinning has taken place. Evidently the chief reliance in sustaining high fertility in the soil is by high feeding the stock and making rich farmyard manure.

Some farmers are handicapped, very much by having insecurity of tenure, and being tied down by absurd covenants to fixed systems of cropping. Mr Palmer has always been free to do as he liked, and his security of tenure is as good as if the farm were his own freehold. If he has been more successful than his neighbours, the fact must be partly attributed to this circumstance. He has not launched out into any new course except in those well-approved ones of breeding a good herd and flock, and managing both so as to make the farm productive in meat making, and at the same time to yield valuable manure for the sustentation of corn-crops. Several prizes have been won by his cattle at the local shows during the past three years. He keeps strict accounts, and no doubt proves to the judges that he has made the farm pay, but the present low prices of wheat must make an immense difference in his annual returns. Indeed, he imparted the information himself to a party of visitors inspecting the farm that the wheat sold therefrom realised as much as £1,795 9s. 7d. in 1855, but only £373 11s. 2d. in 1888.

JERSEY CATTLE.

The fawn-like appearance and docile habits of these animals, in conjunction with their useful qualities, stamp them as the *beautiful* cow for the amateur dairy farmer, or suburban villa resident, with his acre or two of land. The yield of milk is small compared with that of some of the large breeds; but, though scanty in quantity, it is of superlative quality. The quantity of food consumed usually bears a corresponding ratio to the weight of the animal. If tested by the standard, the Jersey is one of the most valuable breeds we possess under suitable conditions of climate and soil. On the rich pastures and more dripping climate of the Midland counties, there is a tendency to a grosser habit of growth. We are not much enamoured with the present show-form fashion, which is simply a skeleton clothed with skin. If the object be the production of quantity and quality of milk, such a system is contrary to the teaching of animal physiology. Let the recognised points be fully developed, but, at the same time the skeleton should be clothed with a moderate covering of muscle, "lean flesh," and fat. At any rate, in the case of other dairy breeds it is impossible to obtain rich milk from animals in a similar condition. At the recent Royal Show at Warwick there were thirty-six heifers, many of which were in-milk, and when shown all were under two years and six months old, many only turned two years.

We know of no other breed that can at present show an equal record. We had a good opportunity of carefully examining this class whilst the animals were waiting to enter the judging-ring. The weak point in the breed is what the Scotch dairy farmers call the "milk-vessel." This is not only a visible defect; it is vital in any animal whose chief utility is filling the pail. Amongst so large a number, they, as may be expected, varied in degree; but, so far as I could judge, there was not a single animal amongst the thirty-six exhibits that carried a perfectly-shaped bag or milk-vessel. In many the teats were placed too closely together, and the bags ill-shaped. Instead of extending forwards along the belly, and also well to the rear, they are generally purse, and circumscribed in capacity. Viewed from behind, they appear to have a parting running down the centre. In some, the whole four teats were close together, whilst in others each forms a different part of the bag. This is a vital point, and one that, by careful selection, could be bred out in a few generations; but, in order to do this, more attention must be directed to the selection of the male, as well as of the female. The young calf intended for service as a bull in due course should at an early age be subjected to a rigid examination as to the position of the rudimentary teats on the scrotum. If these are close together the calf should be rejected and altered. Whole colours should be cultivated, broken colours are the result of domestication and close breeding.

GILBERT MURRAY.

Elvaston, Derby.

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