

within certain bounds the fattening and milk giving properties must be regarded as antagonistic, and are rarely combined, in any marked degree, in the same animal.

A committee was appointed some dozen years ago by the Ayrshire Agricultural Association to fix the points in Ayrshire cattle which should be held in most importance, as indicating superior quality; and after careful inquiry and consideration, they issued the following report:—

"HEAD short, forehead wide, nose fine between the muzzle and eyes, muzzle moderately large, eyes full and lively; horns wide set on, inclining upwards, and curving slightly inwards.

"NECK long and straight from the head to the top of the shoulder, free from loose skin of the under side, fine at its junction with the head, and the muscles symmetrically enlarging towards the shoulders.

"SHOULDERS thin at the top, brisket light, the whole fore-quarters thin in front, and gradually increasing in depth and width backwards.

"BACK short and straight; spine well defined, especially at shoulders; the short ribs arched, the body deep at the flanks, and the milk veins well developed.

"PELVIS long, broad and straight; hook bones (ilium) wide apart, and not much overlaid with fat; thighs deep and broad; tail long and slender, and set on level with the back.

"MILK-VESSEL capacious, and extending well forward; hinder part broad and firmly attached to the body; the sole or under surface nearly level. The teats from two to two and a half inches in length, equal in thickness, and hanging perpendicularly; their distance apart at the sides should be equal to about one-third of the length of the vessel, and across to about one-half of the breadth.

"LEGS short, the bones fine and the joints firm.

"SKIN soft and elastic, and covered with soft, close, woolly hair.

"COLOURS preferred are brown, or brown and white; the colours being distinctly defined."

The above "points" are, no doubt, the results of wide and careful observation and combined experience; and they will materially assist in forming a correct conception of the modern type of an improved Ayrshire. We agree, however, in the remark "that a cow which gives the largest return in butter or cheese, upon equal feeding, and for a whole season's milking, is the best milch cow, whatever her 'points' may be." A capacious, well formed and well set udder, docility of temper, and a tendency for holding on in milk, are the principal qualifications that should guide a purchaser in quest of a good

milch cow. It is universally admitted that Ayrshire cows give a large quantity of milk of excellent quality, in proportion to their size, and the amount of food consumed. "Healthy cows, on good pasture, (observes Professor Low), will give from 800 to 900 gallons in the year;" and there are several instances on credible record of considerably larger yield than this. The average, however, even in the best grazing districts of the west of Scotland will come considerably below this standard; and the produce of milk, like other productions of the farm, is found materially to depend on a number of different conditions. The old adage, that "the cow gives her milk by the month," is everywhere and at all times applicable; and next to liberal feeding, ranks clean milking, suitable shelter, and general attention to order and cleanliness.

Ayrshire has long been celebrated for the making of Dunlop cheese, and the manufacture has of late years been both extended and improved. A number of the larger farmers, keeping from thirty to forty cows each, have effected several important improvements in dairy management, by which a quality of cheese equal to the well known "Cheddar," of the south western counties of England, is now produced; and, in fact, not to be distinguished from it.

The illustrations which accompany this article, taken from the life by an eminent and well known artist, Mr. Page, of New York, will give the reader a correct idea of the most advanced type of this celebrated breed; handsomer specimens of which it would be difficult to find even in Ayrshire itself. We would recommend a careful comparison of the cuts with the preceding table of characteristic points. Although Ayrshire cattle are well known in some parts of Canada, where they have been bred and found adapted to our soils and climate for many years; yet it must be acknowledged that we have but comparatively few specimens of really superior merit. This arises from inattention to the importation, in the first instance, of really superior animals, as representing the latest improvements; and next, to want of care and judgment in breeding, and general management. The breed is everywhere naturally hardy, and would be found, in all probability,