

mowing or chopping up the rough-growing grass, the 'knocking' of the manure deposits; the shelter, the rubbing posts, the waterings, the fences,—all have to be cared for and provided."

Agricultural Intelligence.

The Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland.

MEETING AT PERTH.

The Highland Society was considered this year to hold its meeting under especially favorable circumstances. The entries were known to be good; the locality was one in which the best breeds of the country were likely to show in great force; while, as the last year of the Duke of Athol's term of office, it was concluded, naturally enough, that his Graces's own friends and neighbours would strain a point to support him. But even beyond all such advantages there was for once no "opposition" in the arrangements of the Yorkshire Society.

Excellent as no doubt were some of the classes at Perth, the meeting, as a whole, did not realize all that was expected of it. Without going again very minutely through the catalogue, we only remember three English exhibitors as being represented here—Mr. Booth with his Shorthorns, and Mr. Waluman and Mr. Mangles with their pigs. The Perth, however, was "very nearly" being a most exciting show of Shorthorns. Had Captain Gunter only sent on his stock as he did at Dumfries last year, we should have had the Leeds battle and its subsequent correction in Durham fought out for the third time. But Booth could not cross the Border in '60, and Gunter would not in '61. Just as in the ploughing match, Hornsby would not compete at Edinburgh, and Howard declined doing so at Perth. Much as it sounds like one, there is no amicable adjustment in this, although it generally works conveniently enough for those who go into competition. As a rule, the commendations of the Highland Society, in reality, mean little or nothing, and the very official prize-list declines to give them, an example we have continued to follow. As at other meetings, the judges are here instructed to give in, beyond the first, second, and third prizes, two other reserve numbers, of which the fourth is construed into a *high commendation*, and the fifth into a *commendation* simply. More frequently than not, the judges mean nothing of the kind; but the officials are good enough to interpret this for them, and the best of a bad lot remaining becomes highly commended accordingly. The effect of this is often absurd, as in some short roughish classes of Cotswolds, where almost every sheep sent was distinguished by a prize or a commendation; and, when at the first glance, one would imagine the judges must have had a wonderfully clever and even lot of animals be-

fore them. Let the Direction of the Highland Society be good enough to remember for the future that a reserve number does not necessarily imply a direct compliment, and that judges, if they choose to exercise it, have the absolute power to commend as many or as few of the entries as they please. At Perth this might have fairly commended the whole class of Shorthorn cows, which if not a large one was very good one.

Like a thorough man of the world, the Shorthorn makes himself at home wherever he goes, and, with all the assumption of a leader of fashion, is now not satisfied till he has the attention of everybody. It was so at Perth, when at 10 o'clock, on the sound of the trumpet, the rieurs fell, and the eager crowd rushed off to the Queens, and Belles, and Brides, just as at Leith they made for the horses, or well versed learn the road to the tea and toast. Not that the native breeds had some honour in their own country, more especially the shaggy Highlands, looking quite as handsome and more useful than ever. In the generally good classes struck us there was more depth and breadth about them than we have seen, with scarcely an exception which would seem to argue that even a Highlander might be if you did take very good care of him. They were shaggy of all colours, yellow, brown, black, and brindle, but with the fawn by far the most fashionable in appearance, and the blacks the least. The latter, indeed—whether from the mere want of colour or not, we will not venture to say—had seldom the high character of the light hues. The cows, here, again, were a capital class; and Mr. McLaren's first, a "splendid animal in the best sense of the word, with a wonderful bear-skin coated calf at her side, is impossible to imagine anything more picturesque than the grouping of this mother and daughter. Then, Mr. Campbell, of Jura, another of his beauteous heifers, warranted to live and thrive in a country where they are snowed from October to June, and from a happy home nothing but the highest of ailments can still keep them. The Duke of Buccleugh had not only two first prize bulls, but Grace also ornamented the show-ground with four famous Highland oxen, remarkable for most magnificent heads and horns. "Good eat" and good to look upon, surely the Highlander should command his price as "first stock," if he can do without that top rail!

Another peculiarly national breed is the polled, not here classified with all the mixtures of Galloways, Angus, or Aberdeens, but competing, as they would appear to a general observer, as of one common class.

Still, in their united strength, the entry was a decidedly large one; and Mr. Bowie decided to show his animals, withdrawing them at the last moment in consequence of a dispute about danger of contagion, that we have not entered upon here, but that seems to us to