

ABSURDITIES OF THE PRESENT CLASSIFICATION OF HORSES AT AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

To the Editor of the Agriculturist.

SIR,—You may remember a conversation I had with you, at the late Fair at Kingston, as to the absurdity of the present system of classifying horses entered for premiums, under two heads only, viz., “Blood Horses” and “Agricultural Horses.” You concurred with me as to the obvious defect of such a system, and promised to call attention to the subject in your excellent journal. I suppose you have deemed it better to defer the matter until the season approaches for making up the premium lists for the Fall Exhibitions; but as the same objection may be urged against the premium lists at our Spring Fairs, I enclose an extract from an American paper on this point, which meets my views exactly. Perhaps you will think it worth a place in the *Agriculturist*.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. W.

Nelson, December 6th, 1856.

“There appears to be, according to the prevailing system, but two classes of *breeding horses*, in one or the other of which all animals must be entered, viz., “Thorough-breds” i.e. horses with a pedigree traceable to the English Stud Book, and “Horses of all work.” Consequently, any person entering a horse other than a thorough-bred, must place him under the head of “All work.”

“Now this “all work” covers a great deal too much ground, as it is *impossible* to find in *perfection* all the requisite qualifications for the various uses of the horse, combined in any one animal. In short, we cannot expect to find the *perfection* of the draught-horse and the race-horse in the same individual. Neither would a person of any experience in breeding, expect a stallion or mare of *superior excellence* for producing horses for heavy draught, to excel in speed; and *vice versa*. The attainment of the one quality, necessarily involves the sacrifice, to some extent, of the other. Yet these animals are obliged to contend together.

“The class should be divided as follows:—1st. *Roadster, Stallions and Mares*. Under this head, those horses should be entered in whom the qualities of speed and endurance are pre-eminent, and to whom we should look for producing those animals most in demand for the road, light carriage, saddle, and pleasure riding.

“2nd. *Stallions and Mares for Agricultural purposes*. The qualities to be sought for in the animals entered in this class, should be such as would be desired by the farmer for the plough, the market-waggon, &c. In short, horses of medium speed, size, and strength. Animals of this description would be suitable for the omnibus, horse railroad, express waggon, and similar purposes.

“Lastly. *Stallions and Mares for heavy draught*. These animals should be judged of as to their capability for producing horses fit for the drays and heavy waggons, and teams about the cities.

“These classes would comprise all that would be necessary, and at the same time time render the duties of the committees more simple, and more satisfactory to competitors.

“I hope that before another season, the attention of those having the matter in charge may be drawn to the subject, and that premiums will be offered in a manner better calculated to improve our breed of horses.”

REMARKS.—We commend the above to the consideration of those who are charged with the duty of framing premium lists for Agricultural Shows, and especially for the Provincial Show. There can be no doubt the classification of all the horses that may offer for competition, under two general heads, is improper. Each horse entered should be allowed to compete with those of its own class, and none others. The class should be determined from a consideration of the purposes, or