

pot should be placed undermost in placing it over the holes in the bottom of the pots, for, if placed the other way, it too often fits too closely to the pot to admit of the ready passage of the superfluous water. Thus arranged, the soil used in potting does not get down amongst the crocks, and prevent their serving their intended end.

If anyone wants to prove—who has not done so already—that this is a trifling part of plant culture, let him take two heaths, Azaleas, Camellias, or even a Pine plant or a Pelargonium, and drain the pot for one of them as above described, and the pot for its fellow carelessly—a by no means uncommon practice—rumbly into the bottom of the pot a few large and ungainly pieces of dirty pot or brick, and subject the plants to the same treatment otherwise, and they will be witnesses to results so diverse that the matter will soon come to be regarded as of paramount importance; and they will not consider that we have insisted on the strict observance of a trifling point of culture. We might almost say that what the foundation is to the structure, the proper draining is to the successful growth of plants in pots.

Only the other day we were engaged in shifting some Azaleas which had their pots properly drained two years since, and on turning them out of their pots the crocks fell from their balls as clean as the day they were put in. The roots of these plants were in the most perfect health, ready for increased feeding ground. In the case of others which had a few large pieces of crocks pitched carelessly into their pots, the passage for water was next to entirely filled up by the soil working down among the crocks to the bottom of the pots. The consequence was that half the ball stuck to the pot, and it was a soured mass of peat, in which the roots had perished, if ever they had entered it all. Such crocking in conjunction with old unwashed pots is in time certain death to plants, if the evil is not timeously put right.—*The Gardener*.

THE Highland and Agricultural Society's Show is to be held at Edinburgh this year on 24th to 27th July. Prizes are offered;—for Horses, \$3955; for Cattle, \$4675; for Sheep, \$2190; Wool, \$75; Swine, \$465; Poultry, \$690; extra to Bulls and Stallions, \$1125; implements, \$400; total, \$13,300

CATTLE PLAGUE has broken out in various parts of Russia, and in six villages of Austria. Stringent measures are being taken to prevent the importation of diseased beasts into England. This will encourage the cattle trade with America, and tend to raise prices here.

THE AYRSHIRE COW.

THE Ayrshire is a breed that is thoroughly appreciated in Canada, where it ranks next to the Shorthorn in importance. Our farmers possess a great number of as pure bred animals of this class as money will buy, and certainly money could not be invested in a better-paying animal. The Ayrshire is thoroughly hardy, thrives well, gives a great quantity of milk and holds it for a long time—in fact, gives a greater quantity of milk for the food consumed than is given by any other breed. Now that the dairy business has become so systematized that all which a farmer has to do, in districts where factories exist, is to supply as much milk as possible, the Ayrshire is becoming more valuable both as a pure-bred animal and as a means of grading up the native stock. Mr. Ayton, a dairy authority, gives the following description of an Ayrshire:—"Head small, but rather long and narrow at the muzzle; the eye small, but smart and lively; the horns small, clear, crooked, and at their roots placed at a considerable distance from each other; neck long and slender, tapering toward the head with no loose skin below; shoulders thin, forequarters light, hindquarters large; back straight; broad behind; the joints rather loose and open; carcass deep, and pelvis capacious, broad and square, stretching forward, and neither fleshy, low hung nor loose; the milk veins large and prominent; teats short, all pointing outwards, and at a considerable distance from each other; skin thin and soft; hair soft and woolly; the head, bones, horns, and all parts of least value small, and the general figure compact and well proportioned."

There are two other characteristics which seem so thoroughly belonging to this breed that they ought not to be passed over. The one is the black muzzle, and the other is the yellow red, which seems to be the natural colour of the race, arranged not in considerable quantities, but in blots and patches. Thus the animals generally present a sort of checked aspect of golden-yellow, red and white.—*Toronto Globe*.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the proposed Canadian International Exhibition a resolution was passed, recommending that the year for holding the proposed Exhibition be altered from 1878 to 1879, in view of the French Exhibition being arranged for the former year. A meeting of Mayors, Wardens, Presidents of Boards of Trade, and manufacturers from all parts of the Dominion was to be held in Toronto in the month of January to consider the matter and make arrangements.

THE American Commissioner of Agriculture prefaces his annual list of Agricultural Societies by some statistical notes and general observations that may be interesting and profitable to the promoters of such Societies everywhere:—

The Department of Agriculture views with favor the organization of agricultural societies throughout the land, and issues this list to present to the public a fair record of the condition of such associations, to encourage all who are especially interested in rural pursuits to form such societies, or join those already in existence; to the end that the knowledge they have severally gained by experience and observation may be exchanged, and a love for the grand profession of agriculture be developed and fostered.

The necessity for these societies is becoming more and more apparent, as, in order to make agriculture profitable, farmers must infuse a high degree of intelligence into their business, systematize their labor, and devote their energies to increase the productive capacity of the soil, and thereby secure a fair return for the capital invested and labor bestowed, enabling them to adopt those rules and regulations of business life which yield such satisfactory results in commercial and manufacturing pursuits.

The list contains the names and address of the officers of the various societies, enabling those persons interested in agriculture to open correspondence with farmers in every part of our country, it also places the farmers in agreeable and valuable relations with each other, by which they may aid one another in their calling, and thus benefit the cause of agriculture generally; it also gives the year of the organization of each society; whereby we can trace the growth of this principle of association; the earliest societies on the books of the department being The Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, established in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1785; The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, Boston, Mass., in 1792, and the Agricultural Society of South Carolina, Charleston, S. C., in 1795. Dividing the American century into four parts, the number of Societies now in existence were organized as follows: From 1776 to 1801, inclusive, 3; from 1802 to 1826, 16; from 1827 to 1851, 374; and from 1852 to 1876, over 1,500.

The number of members of each society is given, from the few of the select clubs having some special branch of agriculture in charge, to the hundreds of the county societies, including in their membership all who pay a yearly sum during the autumnal fair.

The list gives the returns from the inquiries concerning libraries and the number of volumes they contain, if an