

Short-horn Blood in America.

Just before the sales of Messrs. Coffin, Parks and King, last spring, one or more of the English agricultural journals, in noticing the catalogues of the herds to be offered, plainly intimated that English buyers might be in better business than purchasing Short-horns in the United States. The home supply was ample—their readers were informed—and the result of these distant purchases would be, at best, but problematical. In response (says the *Country Gentleman*, from which we quote), we took occasion to express the belief that the Short-horns thus far carried to England from this country had invariably brought a very large profit to their buyers, and that the English bidding at New York Mills was due "almost as much to the success of previous importations from America, as to the demand for Duchess blood." If such was not the case, we asked for a correction—which has never come.

In lieu of a reply in words, however, we have the response afforded by Mr. Cheney's recent sale—"the first occasion," says the *London Field*, "on which the offspring of the recent re-importation of fashionable Short-horn blood from beyond the Atlantic constituted the main feature of the day." Of 27 lots, the sires of 24 and the dams of 11 were bred in America; general result, an average, throughout, nearly £50 higher on each animal than had ever been reached before in Great Britain—even at the very extraordinary sales of the preceding fortnight!

Bearing Reins.

Some people have an idea that it is more difficult to drive horses without bearing reins and sharp curbs, especially in crowded streets, than which nothing can be more mistaken. I will state my own experience. I have never allowed bearing reins to be used on my horses either in town or country. My present London coachman, who had been always used to drive with tight lacing reins, thought at first he might have some difficulty in driving without them and with plain easy bits, but he soon found the horses are much easier to guide and can be pulled up quicker. Their attention is fixed on their work, and not distracted by pain and the terror of the whip.

One of my horses I bought nearly five years ago, for a mere trifle, with the character of being a roarer, jibber, and rearer. The coachman told me I should never be able to drive him. The roaring soon ceased after the bearing rein was taken away, and by altering the harness so as to make it easy, he soon became a perfect animal, and I would not take any money for him. I now drive with him a young horse who has only been a few times in harness, but by not having had his mouth and temper spoiled by curbs, sharp bits, and bad driving, he is perfectly tractable, and they both obey the slightest touch of the reins. I am constantly receiving letters from people who have left off the barbarous, senseless method of driving, with the same satisfactory result, many in high rank among the number. The custom is rooted in the hard rock of fashion and ignorance, but when understood, it must give way to public opinion, good sense and humanity. Let it be done speedily.—*Cor. Daily News.*

Berkshire Swine.

M. H. Cryer, of Massillon, Ohio, a successful swine breeder, says: Black swine are the native swine of the south of England, and whatever breeds they may be crossed with, the pure bred Berkshire hog of the present time is infinitely superior to any other black breed. Pure Berkshire hogs should be a jet black in color, with a thick set coat of fine black hair, but choose one with coarse hair rather than one that is short of hair. White is allowable on tips of ears, feet and legs, face, nose and tail, but not too much white, as they are always a black breed, and plenty of hair denotes a good constitution. Choose a Berkshire with short prick ears (some famous ones have slouch ears) and an short a face as possible, with broad back, carrying its width back well over the hams (it is much easier to breed them broad over the shoulders than hams) and by all means they should be deep in heart place (from top of back just behind the shoulder) level and smooth all over; in fact, as near a hewn block as can be.

SHORT-HORN BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION—The next meeting of the American Association of Short-horn Breeders will take place at Springfield, Ill., Dec. 2, 1874. B. H. Campbell, Batavia, Ill., is secretary of the association.

Marketing Cattle.

There has one time or another been a great deal of both humane and common sense, and sound business principle violated in the treatment of cattle, from the time they leave the country to be sent to market until they are disposed of. Sometimes they have been treated to an excessively large feed of corn, so as to heat them up and make them drink water excessively, thus giving the seller good weights when the animals are sold. Sometimes they have been well salted for the purpose of stimulating the drinking process. Sometimes cattle have arrived at our yards after a good long run on the cars, and have been ordered off from water and kept on dry hay, and sometimes corn, until Monday morning, when they are expected to drink an amount of water that will weigh at least 50 or 60 pounds per head against the buyer. Quite a number of cattle, one time or another, that have been thus treated, have died in the yards, or before they reach the eastern market after being shipped from here. All abuses of this kind need reformation, for the very good reason that it is both inhuman and impolitic to treat dumb animals in this way. Honesty is the best policy; every good cattle buyer knows at a glance just the condition that cattle are in for weighing, and he will always make his price accordingly—so that in nine cases out of ten, while the owner of cattle treated in the manner referred to may congratulate himself on having gained 50 to 60 pounds per head in the weight of his lot, the buyer has really taken the difference off in the price he has given, just as he ought to do in every case of the kind.

Cattle should always be fed regularly and fairly from the time they leave the country until they are slaughtered for consumption. Humane principles require this policy on the part of the owners, and it is requisite for keeping the meat of animals in perfect health and in its normal juicy condition for human food.—*Drovers' Journal, Chicago.*

ABANDONMENT OF SHEEP-RAISING IN THE SOUTH.

At various points in the south our correspondents speak of the destruction of sheep by that chronic nuisance, worthless dogs, as increasing to such an extent that sheep-raising has been measurably abandoned. Our correspondent in Elizabeth City, Va., especially deplores this destruction, as that section of the country can hardly be excelled either in the weight of fleeces or quality of mutton produced.—*Agricultural Report.*

THE *Journal of Commerce* gives the following simple receipt for the prevention of flies on horses:—Take two or three small handfuls of walnut leaves, upon which pour two or three quarts of cold water; let it infuse one night, and the next morning pour the whole into a tea-kettle, and let it boil for a quarter of an hour. When cold it will be fit for use. No more is required than to moisten a sponge, and before the horse goes out of the stable let those parts which are most irritable be smeared over with the liquid merely: between and upon the ears, the neck, the flanks, etc.

A PROSPECTUS has been issued of the Live Cattle Importation Company (Limited), with a capital of £200,000, in 40,000 shares of £5 each, to import cattle and other live stock from America and elsewhere. The difficulty of transport has been met, it is said, by the system of 'tween-deck fittings, introduced and patented by Mr. F. H. Relph, which are represented to be at once simple and inexpensive, and can be made available for any class of vessel at short notice. An unlimited supply of animals, we are told, can be obtained on the coast of Texas, at from 50s to 60s. per head, and the cattle, it is calculated, will find a ready market here at £16 and upwards. It is proposed to purchase, charter, or build two or more steamers especially adapted for the ocean cattle trade.

DO ANIMALS COUNT?—It argues higher power, than some people give them credit for if they do and as a question of fact a correspondent of the *Advance* offers this testimony: "A gentleman of New Orleans says the mules on a certain street railway are changed on the fifth round, and seem to recognize the fact by a whinny on approaching the terminus at the last round. An acquaintance of mine in Pennsylvania, who manufactures flour in large quantities, and drew it from the mill to the railroad station with the same team and same waggon, always loading the same number of barrels, found that his horses counted as accurately as his men; they would start off upon the instant that the last barrel of the load had settled itself into its place, and never before, and no attempts to cheat them by stopping one or two short of the number and waiting, or leaving the waggon, would ever succeed."

PEDIGREE OF ENGLISH SHORT-HORN BULLS TO WHICH AMERICAN SHORT-HORNS TRACE.—This volume, prepared by Mr. Lewis F. Allen, editor of the American Short-horn Herd-Book, contains the names and pedigrees of all the bulls (6,699 in number) recorded in the first four volumes of Coats's English Short-horn Herd-Book, together with some thousands of such other bull pedigrees, selected from the succeeding volumes, as will enable American breeders to trace the genealogy of their cattle back to the fountain head. The work also contains a supplement, in which are transcribed the pedigrees of American numbers of Canadian bulls occurring with Canadian numbers only, in Vols. IX., X., XI. and XII of the American Herd-Book. The value of such a compendium is inestimable, and a copy of the work should speedily find its way into the hands of every Short-horn breeder in the country.

KEEPING BELLS ON SHEEP.—Dogs that are disposed to kill sheep know better. Hence any unusual noise, like the ringing of a bell, whenever they are about to attack the sheep frighten them so that they abandon their bloodthirsty project. R. W. Mathewson, of Connecticut, writes to the *Country Gentleman* as follows:—"The effect of the bells in preventing damage to sheep by dogs has been well proved in this vicinity the past season. Of fourteen flocks without bells but one escaped; in five flocks with bells on each sheep no damage was done. M. D. Fowler, of Middlefield, had a flock partially belled, and lost but one sheep, which strayed into another lot, was without a bell, and was killed. Mr. A. E. Coe bought a flock and put it in a lot adjoining the former, and soon found two dogs at work at the forty-fifth sheep. The dogs belonged within a quarter of a mile, and passed Mr. Fowler's sheep in getting into Mr. Coe's flock. Dogs after getting the taste of blood of unbelled sheep may attack sheep with bells on; yet I believe if all the sheep were belled, trouble from dogs would be very rare."

Veterinary Department.

Flatulent Colic in Horses.

During the fall months horses are often affected with flatulent colic, which proceeds from derangement of the digestive organs. A very common cause is giving new oats in rather large quantities, and putting the horse to hard or rapid work immediately after feeding. It is also readily produced by feeding largely after a long journey when the system is somewhat weakened. Exposure to a cold draught when the animal is in an overheated condition may also bring about an attack. The symptoms of this complaint are well marked, and the disease in the early stage can be easily distinguished from an attack of inflammation of the bowels.

The horse begins to show his uneasiness by pawing with his fore feet, and turning his head towards his sides; the abdomen and flanks appear distended, which shows the true nature of the complaint. As the pain increases the horse throws himself down and rolls violently, and in some cases will endeavor to lay upon his back for a short time; he will again get upon his feet, but still show a great degree of restlessness; the pulse is but little affected, but the breathing is increased, owing to the distended condition of the stomach and bowels interfering with the action of the diaphragm. If relief cannot be afforded the pain increases and the symptoms become still more violent; the belly becomes fearfully distended, and death may result from rupture of the bowels, or during the extreme paroxysms the diaphragm may give way, or asphyxia may be produced.

Flatulent colic is best treated by giving a good stimulant and anodyne, as sulphuric ether, one to two ounces, laudanum one ounce, to be given in a pint of cold water; the body should be kept warm and the abdomen well rubbed. Injections of soap and water should also be given every half hour. In