

**Among English Breeders.**

While on a visit to England the past winter, a member of our staff spent a few weeks among the leading breeders looking over their herds and flocks, and we now give a few short notes on some of the principal farms visited, commencing with some of

**ENGLAND'S SHROPSHIRE BREEDERS.**

The first Shropshire flock we visited was that of Mr. Herbert Parker, The Park Farm, Alcester, Warwickshire, who has been for some years past quietly building up a flock on a foundation stock of ewes, selected from the very best flocks in England, purchases having been made, regardless of cost, from such breeders as Bradburne Bros., J. Pulley, etc. At the time of our visit the flock consisted of 100 breeding ewes, a number of them sired by the Bradburne ram, The Mitre (4863), he by Buffalo Bill (3396), dam by The Rector (1769). Most of these had been mated with the rams Senior Wrangler (4814) and Royal Astwood (5494). The first of these, a very large, heavy sheep, with a very heavy fleece, is a son of Chorister (3747), and his value as a breeding ram is shown by the fact that he sired the 1st prize pen of ram lambs at the Bath and West of England Show, afterwards sold at \$100 each; the second, Royal Astwood, is from the flock of that well-known breeder Mrs. Barrs, his sire being Duke of Norfolk (3033) and his dam a ewe by The Dean (2356); although not by any means large, this is a very thick useful sheep, with a great deal of quality. Besides these two Mr. Parker has bred a limited number of ewes to the Bradburne rams, Pride of Warwick and Make Way (5341), by Precentor (4733), for whose service, he tells us, he paid a fee of \$5 a ewe.

One thing that struck us forcibly was that at "The Park Farm," while all the stock was in good condition, nothing was pampered, the ewes all being in store condition, while the lambs, which were coming strong and healthy and in no small numbers, were lying out with their dams every night.

Mr. Parker is a life member of the English Shropshire Record Association, and while he is interested in Shire horses, Yorkshire hogs and fancy poultry as well as Shropshires, it is to the latter that he devotes his special attention. He has made a number of sales in the last few years to Canada and the States, and we can confidently recommend any of our readers who are visiting England in search of Shrops to pay a visit to "The Park Farm," Alcester.

We cannot close this notice, however, without mentioning that we noticed here among the horses a very useful mare, by Right Sort (2483), the sire of Mr. G. Brown's well-known stallion, Holland Major, and also a nice yearling filly by Coton, he by Harold.

In the piggeries were a bunch of Yorkshires, bred direct from S. Spencer's stock, among them a couple of young boars that promised to make a grand pair of pigs, while the poultry yard was stocked with pure-bred Langshans (Croadd's strain) and Minorcas.

**ASTWOOD HILL SHROPSHIRE.**

After leaving The Park we drove across to Astwood Hills and paid a visit to the well-known flock owned by Messrs. T. & S. Bradburne, which has sent so many of its representatives to conquer again and again at the Royal, the Bath and West of England, and other leading shows. As our time was limited we were only able to take a hurried look through the flock, but even that was enough to show us that its owners are fully deserving of the position they have won for themselves among English breeders. Among the stock rams the first we noticed was the ram Lord Kingston, a grand, thick, even sheep, short-legged, and showing a wonderful deep, well-sprung rib, with a well-wooled head. This ram was purchased last year from the flock of Chas. Coxon, Esq., at whose sale he brought the highest price of the day. He is now being fitted for the Royal Show. Another very useful ram

in this pen attracted our attention also; he was bred by Mr. J. Beach, and has sired some of Messrs. Bradburne's best lambs this year, while another extra good sheep was a two-shear ram bred by Messrs. Bradburne themselves. This ram, his owners claim is the best sheep they ever bred; he is a half brother to their Royal winner last year at Doncaster, and a full brother to one of their ewes that won at the same show. One point that we would like to draw our readers' attention to is that both this ram and the next shown us, the well-known One Above All, were hired out last season for more money than most Canadian breeders are willing to pay for the purchase of a ram. Besides these two-shear rams we were shown a pen of eight shearing rams, and one of fifteen shearing ewes, all being prepared for the Royal Show at Warwick, and a grander lot it would be hard to find—all beautifully woolled about the head and legs, and standing squarely on the shortest of legs, with thick, even carcasses.

As at the Park farm we again found the ewes and lambs lying out in the pastures, and a grand lot they were, numbers of the ewes having been prize-winners at the Royal and other shows, in past years, and most of the lambs being sired by the rams we have mentioned. Among the ewes we noticed a grand lot of eighty shearlings, which we were told would be for sale this season. We are but doing them justice in saying that for size, quality, breeding, they equal anything we saw in England, and we strongly recommend them to the notice of intending buyers. Besides their Shropshires, Messrs. Bradburne carry a small stock of Shorthorns, as well as Shire horses and hunters.

We would, before leaving Astwood Hills, draw our readers' attention to the magnificent average made last year by sheep sold from this flock by Messrs. Lyttell, Mannsall & Walters, 93 sheep and lambs realizing no less than \$6.650 or an average of over \$70 each.

**MR. G. THOMPSON'S SHROPSHIRE AND SHORTHORN.**

After leaving Astwood Hill a couple of hours on the train took us from Alcester to Hatton and then a short drive brought us to the farm of Mr. G. Thompson, at Wroxall. Mr. Thompson has for a number of years been an enthusiast on fine stock, and the result of good judgment, combined with the determination to buy only the best, is easily seen in the quality of his stock. As Mr. Thompson was absent from home at the time of our visit, we were unable to go through the herd of Shorthorns, numbering some forty head, to get as much information as we would have wished. It did not need an expert, however, to see that the cattle were not only well-bred but well-fed. Among them we especially noticed the roan two-year-old heifer Fairy Duchess. This is a grand type of a milking Shorthorn, smooth all over, with a grand back and rib, and a beautiful head. As a yearling she won 2nd at the Bingle Hall Show in Birmingham, and as a two year old she has been shown only three times, winning one 1st, one 2nd, and a Reserve No. Among the younger animals we very much fancied a bull calf eight months old, by Grand Duke Winsome, out of a cow bought at Lord Moncton's sale for \$1,200. This calf, a rich roan in color, struck us as being very promising. Short-legged, and with an excellent top, he shows a wonderful lot of quality. But if the Shorthorns were good of their kind, the Shropshires were even better. When Mr. Thompson first founded his flock he made purchases of ewes from such flocks as those of Messrs. Evans, of Uffington; Farmer, of Ludlow; Felton, of Ludlow; and Barrs, of Nailstone. On these ewes he has been using rams of the very best strains, the result being that last year at the Royal Show at Doncaster this flock won the following prizes: H. C. on two-shear ram, H. C. on shearing ram, and 2nd on ram lambs. When we add that this was Mr. Thompson's first exhibit at the Royal, and that these classes were the only ones in which he competed, our readers can see for themselves the credit such a record deserves. The rams last used at Wroxall have been Lord Rowington (5331), winner of Reserve Number at the Royal, 1890, and H. C. at Royal, 1891, and a ram from the flock of Mr. J. E. Farmer, Ludlow, Squire of

Wroxall (5557). We have very little doubt but that Mr. Thompson's Shrops will be heard of again this year at the leading shows. His shearing ewes especially struck us as a wonderfully good lot, and we can confidently recommend any of our Canadian importers who intend visiting England to give Mr. Thompson a call before they purchase. We also understand Mr. Thompson intends having an auction sale of pure-bred stock on August 2nd, which will be well worth attending.

**WOLF'S HEAD FARM.**

Leaving Warwickshire, a few hours run by train brought us from Hatton to Baschurch, a small station a few miles from Shrewsbury, and here we found a trap waiting to take us to Wolf's Head Farm, near Nesscliff. Here we found an old friend in the person of Mr. Jno. Thonger, so well and favorably known to many American and Canadian Shropshire fanciers. Mr. Thonger's flock was founded twenty-two years ago by the purchase of almost the entire flock of the late R. Pembry, who for over forty years was in the front rank of English breeders. Since its foundation the flock has been bred with the greatest care, none but the best of blood being introduced. The flock now numbers over two hundred head of ewes, combining the blood of such flocks as those of Messrs. J. Bowen Jones, Rd. Thomas, Rd. Brown, Crane & Tanner, etc. Among these ewes were a choice lot of shearlings, as well as some very nice shearing rams, sired by The Fleece, bred by T. S. Minton; Stalloe's Choice, bred by J. Bowen Jones, and Wirral. This last named ram, winner of 1st at Birkenhead and H. C. at the Bath and West of England, was hired for a long price from Mr. R. Brown, of Ruyton. This sheep was used again last season, as well as a ram from Mr. Bowen Jones' flock, and two home-bred rams. Until lately Mr. Thonger never showed his sheep, being of the opinion that the fitting necessary for the show yard did them no good; but last year he made a few exhibits and was very successful, winning two firsts at the West Midland show with three pens of sheep, as well as several prizes at local shows. Mr. Thonger makes it a rule never to pamper his stock in any way; and, indeed, at the time of our visit, although the weather was bitterly cold, we found all the young lambs lying out with the ewes, and a grand lot of lambs they were—strong and healthy.

Mr. Thonger has paid several visits to both the United States and Canada, and numbers among his customers such well-known men as G. E. Breck, Paw Paw, Mich.; Blake Bros., Galesburg, Mich.; Fields Bros., Cedar Rapids, Ia., and Wm. Medcraft, Sparta, Ontario. He is always open to assist buyers in making selections, and we need hardly say that being situated right in the heart of the Shropshire country, and having an intimate acquaintance with all the leading breeders, Mr. Thonger's assistance should be very valuable to foreign buyers.

**THE BEAM HOUSE FARM,**

the property of Mr. Wm. Thomas, a name well known in Shropshire circles, is situated a few miles from Mr. Thonger's, who kindly drove us over there. Mr. Thomas founded his present flock on ewes bought from his father, Mr. Richd. Thomas, who is well known as the oldest member, but one, of the Shropshire Record Association. Since it was started this flock has achieved an extraordinary amount of success in the show ring, winning a great number of prizes at the Royal, the Bath and West of England, the West Midland and other leading shows. The flock now numbers over 350 ewes, of which 140 are shearlings, most of them being sired by such rams as Blue Blood (1360), Honest Richard (4016), Park Hero (4707), Royal Clive (5495) and Leicester Hero (5293). This latter sold when a two-shear for the handsome figure of 110 guineas. The breeding ewes, over 200 in number, combine the blood of Patriot (1198), Grandeur (133), Prince Victor (158) and Prince Royal (971), all well known as Royal winners. At the time of our visit nearly half the ewes had lambed, and Mr. Thomas reported that so far 97 ewes had brought him 181 lambs. When we add that among the sires used last season were the well-known Royal winner, Lord Ashby (3381), and the champion ram at the West