

a year placed in juxtaposition with their own. Among other features of the present display may be noticed the skill with which our breeders, in each class, are rearing their animals so as to approach certain standards of shape. Their unemitting exertion have enabled them to get rid of old defects, which were at one time regarded with favour, and so to manage that their stock shall carry the greatest amount of fine meat in the best places. The North Devons have always had, and still retain, the advantage in this respect; but it is wonderful what improvements towards the same end have been made in other breeds and especially the Herefords and Short-horns. If any one wants an illustration of this, let him compare with any of the prize cattle, an old-fashioned Short-horned cow exhibited by the Marquis of Exeter—not a bad specimen of her kind, but still illustrating by contrast, the increased symmetry of younger animals. The most remarkable beast in the yard is certainly Mr. Richard Stratton's ox; its shapeliness and enormous size unite in giving it an advantage to which, were either of these qualities considered separately it would, perhaps, not be so clearly entitled. Among the cattle we notice one rather singular fact, that while there is a fair show of West Highlanders, Angus, and polled Galloways, there is not a single entry of Welsh or Irish. How comes it that our Northern agriculturists, even from as far as Shetland, are thus represented, while from the rich pastures of the Emerald Isle and from the hills of the principality nothing is sent? The classes devoted to cross-breeds contain some excellent specimens, and as these, after all, show the staple which supplies our market with beef, they will be examined with proportionate interest. Among them will be found one remarkably fine steer, exhibited by Mr. Joseph Philips of Ardington, Berk., and an equally handsome heifer, shown by Mr. Robert Beman, of More-on-in-the-Marsh, Gloucestershire. If in their awards for cattle the judges have made any mistake, we should be disposed to say that it was in giving a prize to Prince Albert's Hereford steer, which seemed to us not comparable to that of Mr. W. Heath, of Ludlamball, Norwich, standing next to it. Early maturity, economy in feeding, and a carcass affording the largest quantity of meat distributed in the best joints, ought to be the tests of a good show of fat cattle. The judges point out the finest beasts, but without, we fear, the essential reference to those other considerations upon which the practical value of the exhibition depends.

In the display of sheep, the present show comes out very strongly, and here again, in all the classes, great excellence is attained. The Marquis of Exeter carries off the gold medal for the best pen of one year old Leicesters, and Mr. Sainsbury, of West Lavington, shows the best one year old South Downs. There is also considerable display of cross breeds of extraordinary merit, and to which some of our most eminent agriculturists have contributed. We would draw particular attention to the pens exhibited by Mr. G. R. Overman, of Burnham Sutton, Norfolk, and Mr. W. S. Stevens, of Galthampton, Oxfordshire.—One point which occurs forcibly to the visitor of these annual shows, is the preference which the Smithfield Club appears to give to pure over cross-breed stock, notwithstanding that first crosses are of all the most profitable to send to market, that Smithfield is necessarily supplied with a small proportion of pure bred sheep, and that an exhibition like that in Baker-street, is one where strict attention to purity of blood is not requisite, and can be dispensed with. The tendency of such predilections is to shut out practical men from the competition, and leave it in the hands of breeders and amateur agriculturists. The club, it will be perceived on reference to the prize

list, gives no gold medal except in the pure breed classes, and their money premiums for those classes are on a larger scale also. There is an obvious risk in making such distinctions with their new classification, for they will thus be insensibly drawn on until all difference between their exhibition and that of the Royal Agricultural Society disappears.

The present show of pigs is quite equal to that of former years; and the pen to which the gold medal has been awarded will for the next few days occupy no small space in the attention of the visitors.—Those who cannot work their way through the crowd to see them will do well to examine the porkers sent to Baker-street by that enterprising and spirited agriculturist, Sir John Conroy. They are excellent of their kind, and have won him no less than three prizes.

To the existing attractions of their show we understand that the club contemplate adding next year a display of poultry, which cannot fail to be popular. One of the smaller evils of Protection was that it brought into unmerited contempt an interesting and profitable branch of rural industry, which being neglected, our poultry became so dear and bad, that we had, and still have, to draw our principal supplies of them from France and Belgium.

As an offshoot of the exhibition of stock, the bazaar contains also a great collection of agricultural implements supplied by the best makers, and two collections of farm produce, which are of a remarkable excellence and deserve the careful inspection of every visitor. The first of these is by Gibbs & Co., of Half-moon Street, Seedsmen to the Royal Agricultural Society. It is beautifully arranged and shows great care in the selection of the specimens. The second is a contribution from that valuable institution the Royal Dublin Society, and illustrates the capabilities of the Irish soil and climate for the growth of green and root crops in a manner truly wonderful. Mr. Corrigan, the society's curator, has brought over this highly creditable display of farm produce, which we understand is the residue of the society's last autumnal show, and is composed of contributions from the best agriculturists in Ireland.

DISPLAY OF IRISH FARM PRODUCE AT THE LATE SMITHFIELD CATTLE SHOW.

The department of Seeds and Roots of English growth was very extensive and of a high character. A novelty in connection therewith is worthy of special notice, viz., a splendid display of *Irish productions*, forwarded by the Royal Agricultural Society. The *Morning Herald* and other papers speak in the highest terms of the farm productions of the Emerald Isle, where improved tillage and farm management are happily progressing in an accelerating ratio. That most useful and talented journal, the *Irish Farmer's Gazette*, remarks in reference to this matter: "Our English friends have had now, for the second time, ocular proof of the excellence of our soil in such productions; they have also proof that we are not the indolent, ignorant people, some take a delight in representing us to be; for they must not suppose that the production of those fine root crops are only to be attributed to the great natural