

LIVE STOCK.

SOME ENGLISH SHOWS.

THE NOTTINGHAM COUNTY SHOW was held last month at Retford. The classification provided for three sets of exhibitors, local, county, and open-to-all. It is with the latter classes we deal. To summarize is difficult when so many fine animals are in question, but a better lot of Shire horses are seldom met with at any county show, and in some cases the classes were equal in merit to that we shall see at the Royal. Mr. Farnsworth, Mr. F. E. Muntz, Mr. W. T. Everard, Lord Middleton, Earl Egerton, Sir P. A. Muntz, Sir A. Henderson and James Forshaw & Sons were amongst the leading exhibitors and winners. The light-horse section was also a very attractive feature of the Show.

The cattle classes, especially those open to the County only, were of most satisfactory description. Quite a number of these entries competed successfully in the open classes, in which the leading winners were owned by Sir A. Henderson, Mr. R. R. Rothwell, Earl Manvers and Lord Middleton, "Shenley Baron" winning first honors in yearling bulls for Mr. C. S. Raphael.

The old-bull class was a choice one, Sir R. Cooper's white bull Meteor being first and champion; Mr. Rothwell's Strowan Marquis 13th came in second, with Lord Middleton's Illustrious Count third.

A class of special merit was that of heifer calves. The competition was very keen, Sir R. Cooper, Messrs. S. E. Dean & Sons, G. Harrison and Captain Harrison being the winners.

Twenty-four yearling heifers made a very strong class, Buscot Truth taking the leading honors for Sir A. Henderson, followed by Gainsford Fragrance as the second winner for Mr. G. Harrison.

The three-year-olds were a beautiful lot, the winner, Lady Graceful, being of specially high merit, and Mr. R. R. Rothwell sent her out in grand form. Ursula Raglan won first honors for Mr. G. Harrison in the cow class, and Towey Princess took the second place for the same owner.

There was considerable competition in the pig classes. The Large White breed was well represented. Messrs. D. R. Daybell, J. Tong Conningsby and W. E. Measures were the principal winners for boars, the last-named winning champion honors. These honors for females were won by Mr. R. Middleton Knowles, and Messrs. W. B. Wallace and W. E. Measures were the other principal winners.

The Lincoln sheep classes formed a very important and attractive feature at this Show. First honors for yearling rams and ewes went to Mr. Henry Dudding, and his yearling ram is probably one of the best he has ever exhibited at this age. Mr. T. Casswell was second and third for yearling rams and second for yearling ewes—choice and typical pens in each instance. Third and reserve honors went to Messrs. S. E. Dean & Sons, whose sheep are of good merit. Sir Richard Cooper won first honors for yearling rams and yearling ewes in the Short-wooled classes.

THE WILTSHIRE COUNTY SHOW was held at Devizes, and was given a very hearty welcome, and the quality of the stock exhibited was fully satisfactory, particularly those sections of it that were more or less limited to the County. The most important section was that for Hampshire Down sheep. These came out in full force, with very keen competition. In the yearling lamb class, Mr. H. C. Stephens went to the fore, followed by Mr. James Flower and the Marquis of Winchester. In the lamb classes, which were very good indeed, Mr. James Flower won champion honors, reserve champion honors, first for pen of three ram lambs, second for single ram lambs, and first and second for yearling rams—a notable series of success, and one fully deserved by the merit and character. The Marquis of Winchester, Mr. H. C. Stephens and Sir W. G. Pearce were the other leading winners.

The Shorthorn classes were very representative of good strains of blood. Lord Calthorpe's Elveton Monarch was the champion bull. His Lordship, Lord Wolverton, with Messrs. J. Deane-Willis, W. Nicholson and S. Dennis, were the owners of the leading animals.

Messrs. Pocock, J. Joicey, Mrs. McIntosh and Lady de Rothschild shared the honors in the excellent Jersey classes.

THE SHROPSHIRE & WEST MIDLAND SHOW.—The feature of this annual show, held at Shrewsbury, is undoubtedly the very strong competition in the classes for Shropshire sheep. At no other show, save the Royal, is the competition anything like so keen. This year the Mansell Memorial Challenge Cup, the Blue Riband of the Shropshire contests, went to Mr. M. Williams for a beautiful and typical yearling ram. Sir Richard Cooper's two-shear ram, first in its class, was reserve number for this honor. Two yearlings, also owned by Sir Richard Cooper, were second and fourth in their class. The intervening third place was occupied by a fine masculine sheep owned by Sir P. A. Muntz. Sir Richard Cooper was first

and second for pens of three yearling rams and pens of five yearling ewes, an honor and success few other breeders have ever attained. Mr. Victor Cavendish, M. P., was third in each of these classes. In the lamb classes, both for rams and ewes, Sir Richard Cooper was first again. The other leading winners in these classes were Messrs. Minton, E. Nock and the Duke of Sutherland. The competition in the local classes was very keen, and quite a number of real good sheep were found therein.

The Shire horse classes were very good, the younger classes particularly so, Mr. E. Muntz's King Forest adding still another success to his already long list of honors. Sir P. A. Muntz owned the winner in the yearling class.

Shorthorn cattle were not largely represented, but their quality, type and character left but little to be desired. Linksfield Champion, Mr. Miller's bull, was first and champion. Sir Richard Cooper took second and third in the same class for stud bulls, and led in the yearling bull class with Shenley Duke. The female classes were very even, the Earl of Powys and Sir Richard Cooper taking the leading honors.

The Hereford classes were very good indeed. Protection, owned by Messrs. P. & G. Hughes, occupied the leading position in the old bull class. Samson, owned by Mr. D. A. Thomas, was first in the yearling class, followed by Viscount, owned by Mr. Butters. The Earl of Coventry won in the cow class with a beautiful animal named Madame. Mr. Tudge won with Princess Beatrice in two-year-old heifers, and Lemster Plum, a beautiful, symmetrical heifer, won first honors in the yearling class for Mr. A. E. Hughes.

W. W. C.



Holker Menestrel (1896).

Shire stallion, bay; foaled 1896. Sire Menestrel (14180). First prize, Shire Stallion Show, London, England, 1907.

THE DOG'S FRIEND.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Mr. Holdsworth seems to have a great spite at dogs. He thinks they should be fed on lead, and I think a dose of strychnine is what a goodly number deserve; but not all. There are men who deserve to be hanged, but that is no reason why all men should receive the same. Just the same with the dog—there are good and bad. No doubt the sheep industry is one well worthy of protection, but all dogs are not guilty of the name of sheep-killer. The dog needs training just as much as a horse or an ox, or our boys. I have seen boys run sheep, and no doubt Mr. H. has, also, and perhaps been guilty of at one time getting hold of the cow's tail to see which was the longest-winded, boy or cow. Now, why did he do this? Because he had not been taught differently. What shall we do with him? Try to teach him, or give him a dose of lead? If he is never taught anything, it is hard for him to do just right. It is the same with the dog. The old proverb says, "As you raise your pup you have your dog." Now, sir, what we want is some procedure to do away with those worthless renegades of curs; then, I venture to say, we would be rid of four-fifths of the sheep-killers.

We have no other animal so affectionate and kind and protective as the dog. How often we read of lives being saved by him, and valuable property as well. How would those people in the Arctic regions get along without their dogs. Take him into your confidence and he will repay you any

trouble he has given you. Keep him in at night and he will look for his sleeping quarters as regularly as his master. Mr. H. thinks he could not find one good one. I do not doubt it at all, because he evidently would not know when he had found one. It is not to be wondered at that Mr. H. is chased and yapped at from all sides, at the rate of twenty collies per hour, when he has such a grudge against them. They evidently have got onto the racket, and one good turn deserves another. J. R. P.

Grey Co., Ont.

PRINCIPLES OF SHORTHORN BREEDING.

In the breeding of good Shorthorns, some men have aimed at producing a good type for winning prizes; some look to breeding from a particular line of blood; some pride themselves on having a herd descended from some particular animal; some think nothing of an animal which is not red—all these ideas have led to much notoriety, and some of them to the making of a deal of money, but none of them necessarily to the breeding of right down good, useful beasts.

Suppose a man wants to raise a sire which more or less directly is intended to produce beef cattle, the animal must have a heavy, well-fleshed body on short legs, a fine bone, a tendency to make the best of all the food he eats, and, beyond everything, a stout, hardy constitution. This tendency to make the best of all it eats, combined with a hardy constitution, is the great point; no straightness of back, roundness of rib, length of quarter, well-filled neck vein, general "smoothness," or redness of color, will make up for the

want of a good constitution and a capacity to make much beef or milk out of little food. When an animal combines this constitution with this tendency, we may safely say that it is of a good sort, even if it may happen to be somewhat unsymmetrical. No man need look for lasting success unless he breeds from such a sort.

The power of judging of this goodness of sort in a strange animal is not given to many men, though, by experience and care, most men may learn to avoid the worst kinds, and close observation will soon tell every one which are the good and bad sorts in his own herd. A certain want of symmetry need not affect the goodness of the sort, but no man can afford to breed unsymmetrical animals, and no one is likely to try, for though this prejudice or that whim has led many a man to breed bad sorts, every one sees the need to do what he can to keep up the desirable points in the general outline of an animal. In

estimating the relative value of the various points of form, a prudent man will set a high value on such as indicate a sound and vigorous constitution. Hence, the old-fashioned sneer about kitchen beef will not prevent the very highest consideration for a well-developed fore end and a wide chest.

The great question with most breeders is, "How are we to use the mass of facts which is bound up in our herdbooks? Are we to go in for line breeding? Must every successive sire be of the same tribe? Or are we, while generally standing by some particular line of blood, to allow ourselves such liberty as we can find within these limits, or are we to give our judgment free play, and take a good beast when we find one?" As a matter of theory, the latter plan is, no doubt, the most defensible, but in practice it has serious drawbacks. If our judgment was sufficiently well informed, it might no doubt be right, but that is not often the case. In the second generation an animal has four grandparents, in the third eight, in the fourth sixteen, and in the fifth thirty-two. Everyone will admit that even in the fifth generation the individual qualities of each of the thirty-two ancestors has much to do with the qualities of its descendant; but how many breeders are likely to know the individual qualities of thirty-two animals living some twenty-five or thirty years ago? Hence, a good sire, bred from a good sire and dam, has often proved a snare, not because nature works untruly or because like does not produce like, but because we do not know all the elements which go