

THE HEREFORD

Cattle were represented in the first prize by a bull of Lord Berwick's, who is known as a winner of fat cattle. The present case showed an animal of very superior merit—probably the best beast in the show-yard. The variety was the New Hereford with white face, legs, and belly, with the top of the shoulder and the end of the tail. The width and depth of carcass, with the length of body, were very superior, and the animal showed an activity that does not always attend such heavy carcasses. No more superior animal of the breed has ever come under our notice. The shoulder was uncommonly well covered, which produces an uniformity of shape along the whole frame. It is a point of great importance, and the Hereford beasts excel in it. A sloping shoulder joining the neck and ribs, admits the covering of flesh, and removes the heavy objection of bare bones. The present animal was well provided in this point.

The second prize went to a smaller animal, which showed a very general symmetry of form, but in no very peculiar points. But the justice of the award could not be challenged.

The first prize of Class 2 went to a small animal, but of a very great merit. The general symmetry was probably superior to the others mentioned.

The second prize was won by an animal of similar merit with the above, with a horn perhaps too large for the body. The head was unusually handsome.

The Cows showed uncommonly well, especially in the first prize, which has been seldom equalled. The fattened condition might be objected to in a lean animal. The other prizes of this breed were equally distinguished.

The Hereford cattle were largely and richly exhibited at this show; the contiguity of the native county to the place of exhibition favoured the convenience of transit, and it was extensively used. No superior animal to the bull of the foremost prize has ever been presented to our view, and we believe general opinion supported our judgment on that point. The palm of merit between the Hereford and shorthorn cattle may never be settled: but the former are superior in the fore-quarter, or in the shoulder and first ribs. The slanting shoulder slopes into the neck and ribs, and has not the bony projection of the shorthorn, producing much bare bone, and a great weight of useless formations. This superiority cannot be, and, we believe, is not generally, disputed: the shorthorns show a heavy coarseness in the fore-quarter, with much leathery skin from the shoulder and neck. The very best breeders have not been able to banish this property from their herds, along with a lean girth joining the shoulder and first ribs. Eight out of ten shorthorn bulls inherit this defect. On the other side, no animals of any kind exhibit such an ample development of the hind quarter,—the deep and fleshy thigh, wide twist, and length of cut in the rump. This superiority advances to the forepart of the middle ribs, and there ceases, and other animals take the lead. This superiority was never more conspicuous than in the Hereford first prize bull of this year.

The Devon cattle excelled in two bulls, which well supported the reputation of the breeders. The first prize was the smaller beast, but probably unequalled even in the symmetry of the handsomest of all breeds of British cattle. The straight carcass from the shoulder to the rump, along the back and both sides, formed a point of pre-eminence not at all equalled in the show-yard, and probably never surpassed by animals of the Devon breed. No cattle in Britain exhibit the same squareness of carcass as the Devon; especially along the sides, from the point of the shoulder to the extremity of the mid thigh. This breed, and the Hereford, lose the posterior width behind the hook-bones, which the short-horns maintain, and even expand; but in the forequarters, in the covered shoulder, and fulness of girth, the Devon probably exceeds the Hereford—at least the equality is fully supported. If the Devon were one quarter heavier, and the horn reduced in one-half the length, the appearance in worth might be improved, although not very materially advanced. As with the Suffolk horses, the uniformity of colour much recommends the Devon cattle; the character is throughout equally uniform, and the symmetry is unequalled by any cattle in Britain; and the general and most entire character has never been more fully upheld than by the two bulls now mentioned.

The protuberant buttock of the Devon and Hereford beasts forms a defect in comparison with the upright standing of the shorthorn, confirming the former observations on the respective merits of the different breeds.

The cows and heifers of the Devon breed at this show supported the usual character—small in appearance, but capable of yielding a larger progeny than is indicated by the size of carcass. The yearling heifers of this show were most exquisitely handsome.

WELSH CATTLE

appeared in fair specimens of the mixed Pembroke colour, the mountain dingy black, and the lowland white, but no peculiar merit was shown by any of them.

SHEEP.

were chiefly exhibited by Messrs. Sanday and Webb; the latter so well known among Down sheep breeders, and the former gentleman for producing the finest specimens of the small variety of Leicester sheep, with the wool of curly pile. The fore flank, in the very large fulness, is most remarkable in these sheep, with the fineness of bone and compactness of carcass; but a delicacy is apparent, though the great merit is undeniable. The head scarcely tapers in a corresponding fineness with the body. The bare top of the head in wool and skin shows the overwrought refinement of the animal. The prize ewes were of the same description, being small in our opinion both in flesh and wool.

The excellence of the Down sheep in Messrs. Webb and Rigden's needs no commendation. The ewes of Mr. Lugar showed a strong advance to rivalry.

LONG-WOOLLED SHEEP

were numerously exhibited, the show being placed in the native country of these animals.