

all the necessary characteristics to adapt themselves to their sojourning ground, and, in so doing, have, in many cases, entirely changed some of their former types and characteristics. If, as some suppose, all domestic cattle are descended from the one stock, then the changes that have taken place in the various breeds are still more noteworthy when we consider the enormous variations in type between some breeds, as, for instance, between Shetland, or West Highland cattle, and Shorthorns. Be the origin of them all as it may, it would to-day be folly to place a herd of Shorthorns in the Shetland Isles, or in the wild Highlands, and expect them to flourish, or even get a living. Highland cattle would, of course, do well when transferred to better pastures, although they would, for a time at least, feel the greater restraints put upon their liberty, and might not appreciate them.

The same conditions prevail on this continent. The hardier breeds will do best in the colder parts, and those only which are used to picking up a living on poor pastures should be tried where pasture is scarce and hard to be obtained. And, again, going toward the extreme south, we find that cattle taken from the north into Mexico, or even Texas, will not do well for some time, and there is generally more or less mortality among them until they get acclimatized.

All this shows the great need of care on the part of the breeder who is starting a herd in determining what breed he will select for his own neighborhood. No definite choice should be made without studying carefully all the conditions. It may be laid down, however, as a general statement for the guidance of the beginner, that, where rich pastures exist, the heavier breeds of cattle will do well, while on poorer lands some of the more active and lighter breeds would probably serve the purpose best.

Legislation on Cattle Diseases.

It is generally supposed that it is only of late years that governments have instituted legislation on cattle diseases; but, as a matter of fact, it is over 150 years since the first legislative enactment on such matters was put in force. This was in March, 1745, during the time of the malignant murrain that devastated parts of Europe, when over 200,000 head of cattle perished in Holland alone, and many thousands in Great Britain.

It was in this latter country that we find legislative measures were taken to check the ravages of the murrain. Boards of health were estab-

lished in various parts of the country, which were authorized to prevent the sale or removal of cattle from one district to another; to cordon off infected districts; to kill every suspected animal, and to see that every beast killed was immediately buried. They were also charged with the institution of certain means of cure, and more particularly of prevention.

The statute compelled owners of cattle which showed signs of the distemper to immediately remove them apart from the others to some distant spot, and to kill, with as little effusion of blood as possible, and bury the bodies at once, with the skin and horns on, at least four feet in depth above the body of the beast, having first cut and slashed the hides from head to tail and round the body, so as to render them of no use. The owners had also to burn all hay, straw, and litter that had been in proximity to the infected cattle, and attendants on such could not tend the healthy cattle in the same clothes. The buildings in which the sick cattle had been were to be cleaned out and disinfected with wet gunpowder, pitch, tar, or brimstone, set on fire, and frequently washed with vinegar and water, and no sound cattle could be put therein for two months at least.

Cattle that recovered from the disease had to be quarantined for a month, at least, before being placed among the healthy ones. Both sound and infected cattle on farms where the disease had broken out were forbidden to be removed, and notice of an outbreak of disease had to be immediately reported to the nearest constable and the churchwardens and overseers of the parish, or to the authorized inspector. The sale of the flesh or milk of cattle suffering from the murrain was strictly forbidden, as also the feeding of any portions to pigs or other animals. Strict penalties were inflicted for any disobedience of the regulations, as well as for any obstruction of officials in their duty. All constables and officials, as soon as they were informed of an outbreak of disease, had to go and report on the same, giving an exact account of the cattle diseased and of those that were healthy.

In order to encourage owners to report at once the outbreak of the disease in their herds, the Commissioners of the Treasury were authorized to pay for every beast killed whose owner had carried out the regulations immediately after the disease appeared, half the value of such cattle. Apparently, the value of cattle was not high in those days, for it was expressly stated that the sum paid was not to exceed forty shillings for cattle, excepting calves, and ten shillings for calves.