

it. Ryegrass and broad clover, a little trefoil and white clover, with a slight addition, perhaps, of alsike, seemed to be the mixture, so far as could be learnt from observation, and the one year old layers certainly looked well. One field, which the foreman stated had been fed down bare on the 12th of May, appeared in the Royal Show week likely enough to yield $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of hay per acre. The proportion of crops to one another appears to be—wheat from 70 to 80 acres, beans from 20 to 30 acres, oats 20 acres, barley 18 acres, roots 20 acres, and remainder alternate grass layer, about twenty acres being seeded down every year; still no fixed rotation is adhered to.

The leading feature on the farm which appears to be most worthy to receive attention is the magnificent herd of cross-bred dairy cows and the very admirable system of breeding them, which Mr. Palmer appears to have carried out very skilfully and with great success. The cross is the Shorthorn-Hereford. The dairy herd was originally of the Shorthorn variety, and Mr. Palmer allied them with a Hereford bull, employing this for three years, when his progeny would be matured and require service. A Shorthorn bull would then be placed in service for three other years, and thus in alternation there would be periods of three years in which a Hereford bull would be employed and three for the Shorthorn. In this way Mr. Palmer has managed to keep clear of mongrels—at least, none were to be seen at Hampton-on-Hill in the show week—and, of course, it is well known that by adopting similar means a great many sheep-breeders obtain flocks very akin to the Oxfordshire Down type, they being in the habit of employing a Cotswold ram on Hampshire ewes for three years, and then placing on their progeny a Hampshire ram, after which they keep up these changes in alternation perpetually.

No cross can possibly be better than the Shorthorn-Hereford to produce general purpose cows, they being quite as good for milk as they are to feed rapidly to beef when out of profit, and to breed calves that are turned into steers of large size and admirable grazing character. Mr. E. C. Tisdall was one of the first to draw public attention to the great importance of keeping milk registers, and he published in one of the early volumes of the Journal of the British Dairy Farmers' Association a list of the produce of forty of his best cows. Strange to state, three or four of those which yielded most milk in the course of the year were of the same cross as Mr. Palmer has adopted, the Shorthorn-Hereford. Some may think the Shorthorn has nothing of value to borrow from the Hereford breed to become more perfect as a dairyman's friend, but, if so, they are mistaken, for Hereford cows give richer milk than Shorthorn, consequently if quantity can be obtained from one source and quality from the other there must be great gain. The number of dairy cows kept in profit is from eighteen to twenty, and, adding heifers and steers, the herd is nearly one hundred strong altogether. The whole of the calves are reared and have to be content mostly with skim, or rather separated milk, for a hand separator is now employed which abstracts so much of the fat that the calves do not thrive so well on the residue as they formerly did on skim milk. This has been the case to such an extent that Mr. Palmer has found it necessary to mix a little new milk with the separated. Theory would suggest that the admixture of a little linseed mucilage would answer the same purpose, and it certainly does in some dairies. The cream is churned for butter by one of Hathaway's churns, and a mechanical butter-maker is employed in the dairy room.

The flock consists of 170 Shropshire breeding ewes of very good character, a ram from one of the best flocks being always used. The last that was purchased was from M. W. F. Ingo's famous Thorpe Hall flock. A similar system is pursued as

with the cattle: the males being grazed out, and the ewe tegs being kept for breeding purposes, and both wether tegs and steers receive oil-cake and home-produced corn so as to bring them fit for marketing tolerably early, a system which of course answers well for the farming generally in affording fertility to the corn crops, otherwise they would not produce such heavy yields as they appear likely to do this year.

Pig-farming is also carried on to a considerable extent, there being from fifty to sixty often on the farm at one time. They are of the Large Yorkshire breed. Their houses are well arranged under a large shed, with a walk down the centre for convenience in feeding, &c. Poultry also forms a notable feature, and it is said that from £70 to £80 per annum is made of poultry and eggs. Dorkings are crossed with pure Indian Game fowls, but the white Leghorns are preferred for layers. The crossing of pure-bred fowls is followed to a considerable extent, but a pure-bred cock is always used. Eleven cart horses and one nag horse perform the work of the farm, and the former are strong, lusty animals, which are required here, some of the arable being of rather stiff character; in fact, this was the farm selected in the late plough trials for the competition of the ploughs best adapted for heavy land. More, however, than these eleven would probably be necessary, only steam cultivation is resorted to occasionally, not often, perhaps, but in autumn and likewise in spring if the cropping should be in any danger of falling in to arrears.

The pastures are, of course, not naturally so good as many nearer the banks of the Avon or some other stream in Warwickshire, but they are not at all bad, and Mr. Palmer adopts the very admirable old-fashioned method of collecting all kinds of refuse, such as bank parings, ditch scourings, and road scrapings to form compost heaps with lime, which, after being turned over once or twice for the lime to get well incorporated and act on the rubbish, are very serviceable to be spread on the turf. Thousands of acres of grass land are impoverished solely through want of minerals available for the grass roots to take up; these compost heaps spread on their surfaces would supply that want. The utilisation of waste products as well as the prevention of waste on a farm does much to aid in making it remunerative. Every bit of hay consumed by the cattle in winter is trussed and weighed ere being delivered to them. A certain quantity is allowed for each beast which is far better than placing before the animals much more than they can possibly consume, a practice labourers so frequently resort to, with the result of large quantities, which some term "orts," having to be removed daily from the beasts after they have blown on it. This would in consequence not be eaten by other animals except badly-kept, half-starved ones, of which there would be none on a farm so well managed as this one, consequently the refuse would be likely to be trodden into dung.

A neater stackyard could scarcely meet the eye. Instead of heaps of straw lying about which are sometimes seen at ordinary homesteads, all such had been made into thatch bundles, and built on rick stands that had parted with their treasures of the previous year. This making of thatch-bundles beforehand is likewise a preventive of waste, as the freshly built grain stacks can be covered over secure from wet with promptitude and dispatch, if the thatch be ready in sufficient quantities. Perhaps it may be said this is only an old time-honoured practice, but it is one to be noted with approbation for all that, and building the bundles on the rick stand tends to keep the timbers of the latter well sheltered from both rain and sun.

There is not much more to tell except that almost all the crops on the farm whether of grain, roots or grass have a healthy, and some of them quite a luxuriant appearance.