

ally do not take an active part in the general management of the Society; whilst those who do are unable to fight against the stronger influence of others, not at all connected with the management, and who do not consider farming matters "genteel" enough to merit the attention of such *savans* as they fancy themselves to be. They consider, forsooth! that the Dublin Society, for the purpose of promoting husbandry, ought to devote its fostering care to "higher branches" than the rearing of bullocks or the management of muck-heaps. Consequently, they intrude into matters with which they have here no concern, but which form the special province of other societies; and to effect this, they first starve, and will ultimately ruin, that department of the Society's operations which is its first concern, unless public opinion steps in to save it.

The spring shows of the society have for several years been no doubt, highly successful; but we deny that such success is attributable to encouragement afforded by the Society. It gives, indeed, a convenient place of meeting, and that is nearly all; for the premiums are laughably low, and would not, of themselves, draw together a parcel of common pig-jobbers. But then, breeders find the spring shows admirably suited for enabling them to dispose of their young stock; and hence at those meetings, there is a turn-out of yearling Shorthorn bulls such as we do not meet with elsewhere. Implement-makers also find the "Leinster Lawn" a first-rate sale-ground; but all the Society does is to find the ground, for which they charge largely."

The winter shows formerly consisted of roots, cereals, and butter, but latterly fat stock have been added. But it is stated that the same reasons which lead to a full show of breeding stock in spring, do not apply to a winter exhibition of fat stock, and that the society do but little to encourage it, especially when their ample means are considered. Owing to the curtailment of the premium list, and the unfavourableness of the season, the quantity of fat cattle, sheep and swine, was smaller even than usual, but the quality was good, considering the state of the weather during the whole of last year.

The soil and climate of Ireland are peculiarly adapted to the growth of root crops, and we have frequently seen astounding accounts of the size and weight of turnips, mangels, cabbage, &c., at their winter shows of the Dublin Society. The weather of the past year was of course unpropitious for these productions, yet we find the following facts in the report of the late Exhibition. Many samples of grain were of course a little raw and soft, but the 1st prize white wheat weighed 61lbs. a bushel, and the red 61½lbs. Barley 57½lbs. Oats 44½lbs. The best six Swedes weighed 94lbs.; another lot which arrived too late reached 119lbs! Six roots of Aberdeen turnips, 86lbs. Four white cabbages,

150lbs. Six roots of long red mangels weighed 69½lb.; long yellow mangel, 70lbs.; red globe mangel, 55lbs.; and yellow globe mangel 68lbs. First prize for twelve roots of Attringham carrots weighed 33lbs.; Belgian carrots, 32½lb.; parsnips, 33½lbs. The show of hemp and flax was small, but several samples were of very superior quality.

The Northern Counties Fat-stock and Poultry Show.

The Northern Counties Fat Stock and Poultry Society, hitherto known as the "South Durham and North Yorkshire," held its eighth annual exhibition in Darlington, on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, in the past week. It proved to be, what it was fully expected to be, by far the best show ever held, not only by the society, but in the north of England, for not merely were the entries more numerous (although a material decrease was exhibited in the number of cattle), but they were greatly superior in quality. The following is a comparative statement of the number of entries for the latter years of the society:

	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860
Cattle ...	75	73	78	66	81	51
Sheep ...	27	16	14	12	21	20
Pigs ...	14	21	22	33	32	44
Poultry ..	403	477	377	480	339	471

Thus showing, as compared with last year, a falling off of 30 in cattle, and one in sheep, and an increase of 12 in pigs, and 132 in poultry.

The chief attraction of this show, and why we more particularly notice it, is the superior class of shorthorns which it is the means of bringing together. This very excellent and deservedly popular breed, in its early history, was known as the "Tees Water;" latterly the "Durham," or "Shorthorn." Of the dozen different breeds and sorts of beasts in this country, one third, we are told, are composed of Shorthorns. They are the most widely spread of any other, their popularity being confined not only to our own island, but extending also to the four quarters of the globe. Where, then, they are admitted to be indigenous to the soil, as is said to be the case with Darlington and the neighborhood, or the Vale of the Tees, it is most likely that we shall find the choicest specimens. And be it remembered that in this district there are many as great admirers of this species of animal as was ever Mr. Collins, to whose anxious devotion and care we owe so much. Last year the Duke of Cleveland exhibited an ox which had it been shown at the Smithfield Club or Birmingham would, it was generally asserted, and that by most competent judges, have taken the shine out of those which obtained the chief honors. This year, although