

Stock.

The Cattle Plague.

A meeting was held in Cleveland on Sept. 29, the object of which was to ascertain what could be done in relation to the cattle plague which had been so fatal among the herds in that locality. Mr. Jewett, president of the committee appointed to investigate the extent and cause of this disease, reported substantially that a careful examination into the cause of disease forced the committee into the unanimous opinion that it is the Texas cattle-disease. To confirm the report he referred to certain localities, where all the Texas cattle are unloaded, and from whence they are taken to different slaughter houses and driven to different pastures, and in this way the disease is carried to native cattle. The laws of Indiana and Kansas relating to measures for the prevention of the spread of the cattle-disease were read and followed by comments. These laws were read for the purpose of showing that other localities had found it necessary to enact measures of protection against the disease, and comments were made to sustain such action, and, if possible, have similar laws enacted in Ohio. Those laws were passed by Indiana and Kansas to prevent the spread in these states of what is known as the Texas or Spanish fever among cattle, and comprise certain restrictions which prevent diseased cattle from passing through that territory. It was insisted by Mr. Brown, of Parma, where the disease is most prevalent, that such laws were necessary in Ohio. A communication from a number of leading cattle men in St. Louis was read which indicated that experience and investigation proved that Texas and Indian cattle are entirely free from the disease called the Texas or Spanish fever. Native cattle from the Northern States, on being taken to Texas, are subject to the same kind of sickness that prevails in the North. Texas cattle can be allowed among natives at any time during the cold months without any danger whatever to the latter, and it is only in the extreme warm weather that this sickness appears; also, that this same or a similar sickness will be produced by bringing natives in contact with any cattle brought from the extreme Southern climate, and is by no means confined to Texas or Indian cattle. This communication closes by saying that all the precaution necessary is simply to keep the natives so that they will not be allowed to come in direct contact with Texas cattle or with the ground or pasture over which they have been fed and driven. This communication was laid on the table by unanimous consent. A lively discussion followed. The farmers are solid that Texan cattle are the cause of all the trouble. A resolution was passed to petition the Ohio Legislature to pass a law to provide for the appointment of an inspector at Cleveland for all foreign cattle brought to this market; also to make it obligatory upon the city authorities to see that such a regulation should be enforced.

Plain Words to Breeders of Short-horns.

In an article under this heading the editor of the *Levi Stock Journal* strongly condemns the purchasing at high prices, cattle, merely from their having a pedigree tracing their descent from a good or fashionable family of pure bred stock. He thus explains his position: "What we mean by pedigree mania is the willingness on the part of a purchaser to take an inferior animal with an extra pedigree, rather than an extra animal with an inferior pedigree." This is a question on both sides, of which much may be said. The latter part of his article, which we give below, gives good practical advice to purchasers and sellers:

The point to be made is this—we cannot afford such criticism. The great breeders of England made their reputation by breeding and showing animals, in every way superior to anything that could be produced by any other man from any other breed. It is true that sometimes an animal breeds so entirely after his ancestry that he lies himself. Such an animal is an exception, and should not be sold. Our position is this: An inferior Short-horn should never be sold. If it breeds better than it looks, it should be kept as a breeder, and if it does not breed any better than it

looks (as is generally the case), it should be sold for beef. Our advice is this:

1. Never place an inferior animal on the market except for beef, and it will do more to sustain the Shorthorn interest than columns of pedigrees.
2. Never offer a barren or unsound animal at public sale, nor at private sale if it be permanently so. It is not enough that the party state all the facts; that will not do away with the bad influences upon the sale. After two or three are offered at any sale people begin to suspect that the management has been defective. It casts a doubt and suspicion over the whole herd. Our advice to every man who finds he has a barren animal in his sale is to withdraw her, and state that he sells breeders and not barren animals.
3. There must be at all times the exhibition of the highest honor upon the part of the breeder. He must be ready to correct all mistakes promptly and fairly. The Shorthorn interest is to-day suffering under the blows of reckless breeders and traders.

We are glad to notice that the breeders of Iowa, in their convention last winter, passed resolutions of such a liberal and honorable character that whenever a vender announces that he will be governed by them full confidence will be given to him. Now we have said plain words to breeders, we will also speak plain words to buyers. If you attend a sale and find even a portion of the animals are barren and inferior animals, make no bids, and thus force every such animal out of the breeder's market. If you intend to establish a herd, purchase good animals with good pedigrees; and then if you do not have the best success the first year, do not charge it all to the animals. It takes years to become a successful breeder. It is a profession requiring the highest talent. Breeding stock is a school in which the novice must pay heavy tuition fees, but one in which the successful man wins honor and a fortune. If the points here suggested be observed, we are confident the Shorthorn interest will have a glorious future.

Animal Food in Great Britain.

Leaving babes out of the question, there are in Great Britain and Ireland 33,000,000 mouths which must be filled day by day. The *Standard* shows some interesting statistics as to the means of doing this. Nearly every country in the world contributes something to the great whole. The total live stock in Great Britain on the 4th of June last was 5,697,280 cattle, 28,068,815 sheep and 24,496,659 pigs. In Ireland, upon the same date, there were 3,996,117 head of cattle, 3,987,178 sheep and 1,479,999 pigs. The total supply of animal food of home growth, then, on the day the census was taken was 9,693,396 head of cattle, 32,157,993 sheep and 39,666,578 pigs. With the exception of swine, these figures are lower than those of last week, and the falling off of Irish beasts is very considerable. Of course only a moiety of the number mentioned above are available for meat supply; probably under one-half will be slaughtered during the year. The arrivals of live stock from Europe have lately been considerably augmented by shipments of dead fresh meat, and for several years past tinned meats have formed an important item of importation.

Liquid Excrement.

How strangely we overlook the value of the liquid excrement of our animals! A cow, under ordinary feeding, furnishes in a year twenty thousand pounds of solid excrement, and about eight thousand pounds of liquid. The comparative money value of the two is but slightly in favor of the solid. This statement has been verified as truth over and over again. The urine of herbivorous animals holds nearly all the secretions of the body which are capable of producing the rich nitrogenous compounds so essential as forcing or leaf-forming agents in the growth of plants. The solid holds the phosphoric acid, the lime, and magnesia, which go to seeds principally; but the liquid, holding nitrogen, potash and soda, is needed in forming the stalks and leaves. The two forms of plant nutriment should never be separated or allowed to be wasted by neglect. The farmer who saves all the urine of his animals doubles his manurial resources every year. Good seasoned peat is of an immense service to farmers, when used as an absorbent, and the stalls for animals should be so constructed as to admit of a wide passage in the rear, with generous room for peat, to be used daily with excrement.—*Journal of Chemistry*.

Obesity and Show Animals.

At the Warwickshire, England, Agricultural Society's dinner, Mr. Masfen had something to say on the excessive fatness of animals shown at fairs for prizes. The remarks will apply with force to a class of animals often shown at our fairs, but which public opinion, we think, is gradually driving out. From the report of the speech, in the *Mark Lane Express*, we glean the following:

The speaker said there was a class of men whom he might call itinerant exhibitors, and the agriculturists in Warwickshire and in other counties did all they possibly could to support those exhibitors in riding their hobby particularly hard. Those exhibitors thought nothing of rendering animals useless, and then showing them. They were to be seen not only in Warwickshire, but at Banbury and other county shows; they used to be at Manchester and Liverpool; they were at York and all the great Lincoln shows—in fact throughout the country. Those animals made an exhibition very attractive in the eyes of the public, but they were a great bug-bear to the tenant farmers of the county in which they were shown. Would that some one would try to do what could be done towards making the shows more practical? He had looked over the cattle, and there were animals he had seen more than once or twice before. What did those animals do towards supplying the tenant farmer with good beasts at a cheap rate? Nothing at all. It was merely a hobby ridden to excess by the owners. Noblemen and gentlemen were very fond, no doubt, of seeing their names in print as the possessors of something special in the way of stock, but if such animals were allowed to continue to occupy the position they did, agricultural societies would, in his opinion, be far short of doing that good to the country at large which the promoters of these societies intended. He trusted this subject would have the attention of the Warwickshire society and kindred associations, and that there would be a determination to do as was done at Birmingham, to make a rule that animals which were not fit for breeding purposes should be excluded from the competition. If some such alteration were made by agricultural societies their operations would be attended with much greater usefulness than at present.

In reply to a statement made by Mr. Elwell, Mr. Masfen replied that he had been misunderstood. What he spoke against was the practice of making animals so obese that they were of no service.

Feeding and Care of Stock.

The world's consumption of meat is rapidly increasing, and the public are much concerned about its price. It behooves farmers to produce it as abundantly and cheaply as possible, to devote increased attention to the improvement of stock and to discover more economical methods of feeding. He who develops his animals in the shortest time and at the least cost is the best farmer. Two-year-old beef and one-year-old mutton are becoming the order of the day among the thrifty producers, and under the influence of modern progress, in preference to the four and five-year-old cattle of former days. Old, full-grown cattle fatten more easily than young animals and will thrive on less variety of food. Young cattle need bran and oil-cake, for the development of bone and lean, or muscle, as well as hay and meal for the production of heat and fat. Farmers should select a breed that will fatten readily, and the animals should be kept growing every day; feed liberally, for, since the greater portion of an ox's food is consumed in keeping its body alive, it is only the surplus accumulations that pay the feeder any profit. A deficient supply of food only cheats the owner; a calf once checked in growth, will never develop into a valuable animal, and any creature that does not show a constant gain is a loss to the feeder, and should be weeded out of the herd. Weeding out the unprofitable animals is as important in the economy of cattle raising, as the destroying of noxious plants and weeds in the vegetable kingdom.

A great loss is sustained by the average farmer who sells his cattle in store condition, when every feeder knows that animals pay better for their keeping in the more advanced than in the early stages of feeding. In store condition they should be fed sparingly at first, then gradually increase the quantity and quality of the food, and since fattening cattle grow more fastidious in their tastes, it is desirable to keep the best hay and feed to tempt them in their latter days. Animals intended