

of here, and yet you tell us that the ones that took second place at Chicago and second place at the Royal were as good as England could produce. You also say his ewe lambs came out this summer, and showed fine breeding and careful attention. Now do you think this is hardly fair towards my ewe lambs, ones of my own breeding having taken first place and ones that I imported this year taking second place, both of them ahead of those that you speak of in such laudatory terms?

Let me just say to you, Mr. Editor, that all I want is fair play in your criticisms, and any man scanning his eye along your prize list, where my name is mentioned opposite each prize I have taken, will readily see how unfair your criticisms are, and had you wished to have been fair to me you could never have looked over the list and then written as you have done. However, I attribute it, not to malice or unkindness, but simply to the fact that you must have permitted someone to have written your criticisms who are interested in Mr. Hector's flock more than in mine, and the same had been, perhaps, overlooked when getting insertion in your columns.

I do not like to complain, but unfortunately one of the American newspapers seems to have been inspired in the same way as yours, and, while not nearly as unfair to my sheep as your article is, still it is unfair, and I am writing them in the same matter after the same manner as I am writing you, and I trust that in justice to myself you will give this letter of mine an insertion in your valuable paper, so that it may be as extensively read as were your criticisms, which I complain were unfair to me and to my flock, which I have taken a great deal of pains and upon which I have spent a great deal of money in order to get it first place, not only on this continent, but in the world, of Dorset Horn sheep breeding.

JOHN A. MCGILLIVRAY.

Our Scottish Letter.

The topic of conversation amongst farmers at present, and for the past few weeks, has been the weather. You have a climate in Canada, but we have none here. The vagaries of the season have been wonderful, and show no signs of abatement. For example, on Monday morning we had all arrangements made to start for the north to view some herds and studs; but while the previous day was one of the most boisterous and wet experienced this year, on Monday morning the earth was iron-bound with frost, and so we remained at home. On Tuesday the wind blew a gale from the southwest, and, in spite of Job's view, we had bitter cold and a heavy snow fall. Next we had a delightful variety on Wednesday, from snow by way of frost and sleet to rain, and now for two days, Thursday and Friday, it has rained and no mistake.

The average agricultural scribe is doleful in these circumstances. He sets out with a discourse on the fluctuations of the weather as we have done, he deprecates the state of the markets, the price of potatoes, the prospect of the turnips being wasted by the sudden alterations of frost and snow, and even the fact that wheat straw can be sold for 80s. per ton of 2,240 pounds does not improve matters, but he keeps on grumbling, so that he is anything but a pleasant companion. On the whole the local correspondent of the agricultural press in this country is disposed to be a pessimist and a confirmed grumbler. But in this he to some extent reflects the spirit of the farmer, who has a bad reputation as a grumbler. Sometimes he has cause. It is hard lines to have to keep your straw at home and consume it on the farm, where it may be worth about ten shillings per ton to you, when you might be realizing eight times that amount. This arises from the absurd clauses still to be found in some farm leases. These bind the farmer to consume certain of the products of the farm on the farm—irrespective altogether of the condition of the markets. No greater hardship than this can, under present circumstances, be conceived, and farmers are not unnaturally rebelling against such conditions. The Agricultural Holdings Act was one of the first indications that the people had come to rule in this country. Formerly landlords made the laws, and, being human, they made them to suit themselves; but the tenant, when foreign competition began to make the shoe pinch, thought of looking into matters, and, although little good came of his proposals at first, in the end he will likely come to his kingdom.

There is no use in blaming the landlord too much. He simply did what the farmer would very likely have done had he been making the laws—he would have made them to suit himself. Scottish leases contain many absurd clauses, and this which treats the farmer as though he were a child is about as absurd as any. Fortunately the pressure of the times is compelling the landlord to think less about how the tenant farms, and more about the solid fact that he does farm, and that to such good purpose that he is able to pay his rent. This is the chief recommendation which a farmer has in these times. The immense quantities of wheat sent here by Canadians and Americans have rendered the growing of this valuable cereal ruinous. The heavy clay lands where it was formerly grown are going out of cultivation, and such subjects as clay pastures have actually been discussed at farmers' club meetings. These pastures are costly to lay down, and do not come to their maturity until the third year. They are better adapted for the production of dairy produce than for feeding, and

there is a strong disposition on the part of farmers who have been accustomed to high farming to revert to grazing. Something, however, will require to be done, for the conditions which formerly prevailed will not now be of any use.

The rain, it raineth every day, and the man who can be happy under such depressing circumstances must be a veritable Mark Tapley. All kinds of farm work are at a standstill, and everything is soaked. Trade generally indicates some improvement here. Ship-building, which is the great industry in the Clydes Valley, offers to revive and a better future may be in store for us. The effect of a revival in trade will of course be generally beneficial, but agriculture will be the last department affected. When all is said and done, horses remain a remunerative branch of farm stock, and attract a vast amount of enthusiasm to themselves. Both Clydesdales and Shires are selling well, and phenomenal prices were recorded at recent sales of Shires. One mare, Dunsmore Gloaming, the champion of last year, was sold at Mr. Murtry's sale a fortnight ago for 1010 gs., and Lord Wantage had a really good sale last week. Shires, like Clydesdales, run on specific lines, and Harold and Premier are the Darnley and Prince of Wales of the Shire breed. There is a circle of Shire fanciers, who are at present booming the Shire as the Shorthorn was boomed from fifteen to twenty years ago. One member of the ring buys from another, and they thus help each other's sales.

We have comparatively few wealthy men in the Clydesdale ranks, still those who continue with us are enthusiastic, and whether they breed or buy they always do well for the breed. The most enthusiastic of these is Mr. John Gilmour, of Montrave, who is one of the most liberal-minded gentlemen in Scotland. His magnificent stud comprises both the redoubtable, Prince of Albion and Moss Rose, and last week the whole was inspected by the students attending the Edinburgh classes. Next week the famous Hatton studs, owned by Mr. Walter S. Park, will be inspected by the students attending the Glasgow classes, under Professor Wright.

This is the season in which stud books appear. Four have lately come into our hands—the Record of the Hunter Improvement Society, the Hackney Stud Book, the Shire Stud Book and the Clydesdale Stud Book. The first is rather an unique record. It is made up of particulars of horses and mares qualified according to certain standards to breed hunters. A thoroughbred stallion is generally regarded as the best sire of a hunter, provided he has strength enough. His stock, out of three-parts-bred mares, are good hunting stock as a rule, but many experiments have been tried to get heavy weight hunters, and the Hunters' Improvement Society was formed to carry out some ideas on the subject. It has done excellent work, and in union with the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding will this year hold a show in London, beginning on Tuesday, 6th March. Hitherto this show has been held in conjunction with the Hackney Show, but the hall became overcrowded, and last year it was resolved to carry on three separate shows during spring. The Shire Show opens first on Tuesday, the 20th February, the Hackney Show on Tuesday, 27th February, and the Thoroughbred Show a week later. The Scottish National Clydesdale Show holds in Glasgow on March 9th, and bids fair to be one of the best ever held. The Cawdor Challenge Cup has given an impetus to this show, and speculation is rife as to the winner of the cup for 1894. At present it is held by Mr. James Kilpatrick with Prince of Kyle 7155, and in 1892 it was held by Mr. Wm. Renwick with Prince Alexander 8890. Whether both of these champions will again face the music is uncertain—one of them, Prince of Kyle, will if all goes well. All of the stud books contain portraits of 1893 champions. The Shire Society has adopted the principles to which the Clydesdale Society has steadfastly clung of giving photographs of the horses and not sketches. The result will be altogether in favor of the formation by foreigners of right opinion on British breeds. Clydesdale men have never shrunk from this ordeal, while fully conscious that sometimes photographs fail to do justice to horses. Still our conviction is that a photograph, however defective, is much to be preferred to the best model, which only shows what one would like a horse to be, but does not represent one as it really is. Rokeby Harold and Rokeby Fuchsia amongst the Shires are superior animals, and Mr. Parnell, Rugby, who had something to do with bringing forward both, is to be congratulated on his work. What will strike most people who look at the portraits in the Clydesdale Stud Book is that the young mare, Queen of the Roses, is very like her dam, the famous Moss Rose. She seems to grow more and more like her every day, and as she appears in the photo, bare foot and heavy in foal, she will not be easily beaten. Prince of Kyle also makes a capital picture.

The horse export trade during 1893, it now appears, was almost wholly confined to Hackneys. They seem to be the only breed which either Americans or Canadians will buy. The continent seems also to be becoming a Hackney market, and trade to various countries in Europe has been fairly good. In Scotland the breeding of nags is becoming more and more popular, and before long the best of the breed will be found in the north. Mr. Alex. Morton, Gowanbank, Darvel, has been the great pioneer Hackney breeder in Scotland, and after

somewhat weary waiting he has at length succeeded in enlisting an energetic body of supporters with him. Sketches of several of the studs have been appearing in the Scottish Farmer, and some of the choicest blood in the country will be seen at the sales to take place in the early spring. I had intended saying something about the cattle trade, but the mail goes and I will reserve remarks on that subject until next letter. SCOTLAND YET.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Veterinary.

ANSWERED BY DR. MOLE, 200 ADELAIDE STREET, TORONTO.

MEGRIMS—STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR WHITE WYANDOTTES.

M. E. MAYBEE, Trenton :—"Will you please tell me what is the name, cause and cure of that disease of hens, where they evince a desire to wring their own necks?"

I have submitted this question to several poultry experts, and they are of opinion that it is Megrimis, an affection of the brain, and incurable. Can you send me a bird, dying or dead, and I will make a *post mortem*, and probably be able to tell you something of this disease?

In answer to your second question, I have copied the following from the Standard of Excellence:

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:—Any feathers on shanks and toes; permanent white or yellow in the ear lobes; comb other than rose; wry tails, deformed beaks, feathers other than white.

STANDARD WEIGHTS:—Cock, 8½ lbs.; Cockerel, 7½ lbs.; Hen, 6½ lbs.; Pullet, 5½ lbs.

MALE:—Head,—Short; Beak,—Well curved; Eyes,—Large, clear and bright; Face,—Bright red; Comb,—Rose, low, firm on top, oval in shape, terminating in a small spike; Wattles,—Medium length; Ear lobes,—Well developed, and bright red short necks; Back,—Short, broad and flat at shoulders; Saddle,—Full, and rising with a concave sweep to tail; Breast,—Full and round; Body,—Short, deep keel bone, straight; Wings,—Medium size and well folded; Tail,—Well developed; Color of plumage,—Pure white throughout.

FEMALE:—Head,—Short; Crown,—Broad; Beak,—Well curved, yellow; Eyes,—Large, clear and bright; Face,—Bright red; Comb,—Rose; Wattles,—Rather short; Ear lobes,—Well developed; Neck,—Short and well arched; Body and Fluff,—Body should be deep and wide at sides, keel bone straight; Fluff,—Full and abundant; Wings,—Medium and well folded; Legs, Toes and Thighs,—Short, stout and well covered with soft feathers; Shanks,—Free from feathers, in color bright yellow; Plumage,—Pure white throughout.

Miscellaneous.

THE SELF-HIVER AND FERTILIZING QUEENS.

F. W. RICHARDSON, Hazeldean :—"In your account of the test of the self-hiver by the Experimental Union, on page twenty-four, Mr. Holtermann is made to report a patent self-hiver to place between the old and new hive, the queen to pass direct from one to the other. When would impregnation take place? Most beekeepers (myself amongst the number) hold that the queen is fertilized on the wing at the time of the swarming, and only then. If such an authority as Mr. Holtermann would deny that as a fact, it would knock our theory higher than a kite."

ANSWERED BY R. F. HOLTERMANN.

In answer to the above, would say: Those having to devote a large amount of attention to other matters, yet keeping a few swarms of bees, are often at a loss to know how to prevent the loss of swarms. We know that if the first swarm is lost, as a rule the season's profits have been lost, for this is the swarm which would give us the bulk of increase. The self-hiver is an attachment by means of which the queen is prevented from issuing with the swarm, and is directed, in her attempts to escape with the swarm, to the new hive. She does not fly at all. The swarm returns, and as before explained, finds the queen in the new hive. Now, were this contrivance left between the new and old hive for any length of time, the new queen, which hatches in the old hive, would not be able to fly out and become impregnated on the wing—the only way she will become impregnated. Other difficulties might also arise. Therefore, the lower and new hive should be examined every few days, and if the queen is found therein, the old hive above removed, as also the self-hiver. The same should be done if the swarm is seen to issue by accident. The old queen leaves the hive with the swarm; the young queen, which usually emerges from the cell about nine days after the swarm issues, generally flies out for impregnation four to ten days after emerging from the cell. Perhaps friend Richardson knows more than he claims; in any case he is the means of drawing attention to an important point in connection with the management of self-hivers.