

ably expect a handsome return for the amount expended in the improved quality of the stock. Second, with regard to the selection, the importance of which I think you will admit, I would most strongly recommend you to fix upon a flock or herd known to be descended from a long line of heavy-fleshed and robust animals, and one whose owner has a character for careful selection of his breeding stock. I am glad to say that breeders answering to this description are still to be found. By pursuing this course, the danger of getting inferior stock is reduced to a minimum. Carefully avoid, however, herds bred from the light-fleshed, narrow and delicate animals so common at the present day. In purchasing a bull for ordinary use, above all things choose a fair-sized animal, with good quality of flesh; if well descended, do not be too particular about his form. The shoulders are better well open at the top, not narrow like the withers of a horse; no matter if a little coarse, if it is a sign of constitution; the ribs should be well sprung, a most important point, but difficult to get; the hips large, even though they should be coarse; the head and neck masculine, and the horns rather thick than otherwise—a thick horn is a sign of robustness and vigour. I do not like the thin papery hide which so many admire; you may be sure there is not much flesh under it.

Let me especially impress upon you the importance of selecting a bull from a herd superior to your own; he should, of course, be as perfect in form as possible, but the following points should be made a *sine qua non*, viz., good and heavy flesh, good looks, well-sprung ribs, and, above all, a pedigree without blot. Bear in mind, however, that a long pedigree is not necessarily a good one. Success in breeding, I am quite convinced, requires a certain amount of intuitive knowledge; it is this which enables one to see at a glance when an animal is likely to be a good stock-getter, or whether a young animal is likely to improve or deteriorate. I cannot believe that this faculty is possessed by many of the breeders of the present day; if it were, the quality of the cattle brought under our notice at sales and shows would be very different. To quote an eminent authority (Mr. Darwin), "Not one man in a thousand has accuracy of eye and judgment sufficient to become an eminent breeder. If gifted with these qualities, and he studies his subject for years, and devotes his lifetime to it with indomitable perseverance, he will succeed, and may make great improvements; but if he wants any of these qualities, he will assuredly fail." Before concluding this part of my paper, I must say a few words on the subject of in-breeding—a subject to me most interesting, but at the same time most complicated. I feel certain that, under some conditions, the experiment might be tried with every chance of success, but these conditions so seldom occur that it can be attempted in but few cases. The conditions to which I refer are these: If two animals be first-rate in form and quality, without the slightest appearance of delicacy, or if the male be very good in points where the female is deficient, for if it be desirable to perpetuate the strain, then I think you might put father and daughter, mother and son, or indeed, any relations together, with the exception of brother and sister. Bear in mind, however, that any defects in the parents would be exaggerated, and each generation would decrease in stamina. From personal experience I cannot speak with any authority, having only tried the experiment once, and then upon sheep—the result was not satisfactory.

### Management of New-Born Lambs.

The *Practical Shepherd*, in relation to the management of new-born lambs, gives these practical directions:—

If a lamb can help itself from the outset, it is better not to interfere in any way to assist it. If the weather is mild, if the ewe apparently has abundance of milk, and stands kindly for her lamb, and if the latter is strong and disposed to help itself, there is usually little danger. But if the lamb is weak and makes no successful efforts to suck, and particularly when this occurs in cold or raw weather, the attendant—the "lamber," as he is called in England—should at once render his aid. The ewe should not be thrown down, if it can be avoided, but the lamb assisted, if necessary, to stand in the natural posture of sucking, a teat placed in its mouth, and its back, and particularly the rump about the roots of its tail, lightly and rapidly rubbed with a finger, which it mistakes for the licking of its dam. This last generally produces an immediate effort to suck. If it does not, a little milk should be milked from the teat into its mouth, and the licking motion of the finger continued. These efforts will generally succeed speedily—but occasionally a lamb is very stupid or very obstinate. In that case, gentleness and perseverance are the only remedies, and they will always in the end triumph. Too speedy resort to the spoon or sucking-bottle frequently causes a lamb to rely on this kind of aid, and a number of days may pass by before it can be taught to help itself properly, even from a full udder of milk.

### Oxen on the Farm.

Some of the advantages in using oxen are these: they can be bought for half the price horses can, and at most of the work on a farm will do as much as horses; they are less liable to disease; they are more quickly geared and ungeared than horses, and their fixtures cost nothing, comparatively speaking, and with care will last as long as the farmer. Yokes and chains are enduring articles. Oxen will keep well on good hay and good pasture, and these are all they need, except when worked very hard.

A thrifty pair of "three-year-olds" will do a great deal of work and grow better and more valuable till they are six or seven, and will do the work until they are nine or ten. If fattened, then they can be disposed of so as to pay more than the original cost, in addition to the cost of grain and hay consumed, thus making a clear profit to the farmer of several dollars, besides furnishing him with several loads of the best manure.

I have owned since I commenced farming at least twenty yoke of oxen, several of which were "three-year-old" steers, broken on the farm, and have never lost one, nor ever lost a dollar by dealing in them. During the same period, by accident, mismanage-

ment and disease, I have lost five valuable horses, worth from one to two hundred dollars each.

Now, there are many men who rent farms, work them on the shares, and own farms partly paid for, who can scarcely make both ends meet even when they work hard and economize to the utmost. Taxes, rents and labour are high; interest, mechanics and store bills must be paid. Having travelled this hard road myself, I can with the certainty that experience may be presumed to give, point out to such a method by which they will be enabled to escape from the unpleasant dilemma of working hard and making nothing. U oxen more and horses less.  
—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

### Jersey and Guernsey Cattle.

As the interest in the race of cattle bred on these islands seems to be on the increase in this country, I will note some of the impressions formed of them during a fortnight's visit this summer, at the time of the Channel Islands Fair, held in Jersey. This fair, the first general one ever attempted, was very successful. The grounds were delightfully situated, commanding a fine view of the beautiful island and bay: the weather was perfect, and the people turned out in great force. More than 300 animals were shown, besides a fine display of fruit, flowers, and agricultural produce. The Jersey cattle were the most numerous; there were not more than 20 from Guernsey, and none from Alderney or the other smaller islands. The Jersey bulls, about 40 in number, were a very superior lot, and the young cows and heifers with calf especially good. From conversation with farmers and others, I found the general idea of the derivation of the Channel Island cattle to be that they came originally from France, from the provinces of Brittany and Normandy. It was thought that years ago there may have been some intermixture of the cattle on the various islands, but that for fifty years at least they have been kept quite distinct. At the present day there are strict laws both in Jersey and Guernsey forbidding the importation of their respective breeds, or any cattle that can be used for breeding purposes.

In Guernsey the farmers seem to have been satisfied with the quality of their animals, and have hardly paid the attention they might in all cases to improving the form. In Jersey, on the contrary, so much attention has been given to beauty, high-bred appearance, solid colour, &c., that they seem to be in danger of sacrificing to a certain extent the richness and high colour of the milk.

In the quality and richness of milk, and its deep yellow colour, the Guernsey as a race seems to me superior. At the fair I saw no Jersey butter equal in colour to specimens from Guernsey exhibited there; in fact, some of the Jersey butter was artificially coloured, and all through the island of Guernsey, at the farms, in the market, and at the hotel, the butter was of the first quality in colour and flavour.

The Jersey cattle are a smaller race than the Guernsey, the latter having generally large frames and coarser bone. This is more