

aden down either in planting, weeding, trimming, or picking the fruit, and they are much more easily kept from weeds. The beds are generally supplied with strong manure, placed in a deep furrow in the bed, at least one foot below the surface. One row of plants is set directly over the manure, the plants fifteen to sixteen inches apart. They are set in the month of May. The hole for the plant is made with a tool like a marlin-spike, reaching down into the manure. The roots are let down and the hole is carefully filled with fine earth without pressing, then soaked with water, and earth placed over the top to prevent baking. The effect of placing the manure so deep, is to try the roots of the plant through the manure to the soil in a dry time, to entirely cover the plants by autumn with the most vigorous plants, and to keep the seeds of weeds and grass so low that they will do no harm. The fruit is mostly new on the new plants, which have derived its vigor from the manure chiefly through the roots of the original plant, the runners of which are cut off in the spring for the purpose of weeding.

Most of my strawberry beds are watered regularly by a constant flow of water along the angles, which have been described. The results are, that the berries are large and fair; they do not ripen quite as early, but continue in being much longer; the crop is certain, even in the driest seasons, when those on dry land are off—sometimes before half the crop is made. In fact, I deem irrigation almost indispensable for the successful cultivation of strawberries in dry seasons."

The irrigation of the meadow doubled the amount of hay.

We may remark in conclusion, that while irrigation cannot supply the place of manure in good cultivation, it will doubtless prove an excellent auxiliary, where it is practicable to add it; and so far as gardening is concerned, deep and enriched soil, and thorough and good culture, will go far towards preventing the effects of drought, where irrigation cannot be introduced. A combination of both would, managed with judgment, produce excellent results.—*Country Gentleman.*

Short-horns in France.

The short-horn breeders in England have for a reason to be satisfied with the Poissy breed—not that their herds were by any means represented, but that no show in France represented so thoroughly established the utility of the Durham breed as the last. Not only was the intelligent spectator convinced of the value of the results which had followed the introduction of foreign blood, but it was plain to them that continued importation is as essential to the

maintenance of the results as the original importation was to their inauguration.

The trade has now risen to considerable dimensions. The managers of the Government Dairy Establishments of Pin (Orne) and du Champ (Mayenne) were amongst the first to try the milking qualities of the breed. After this private enterprise commenced a spirited competition for pedigree short-horn cattle, the honour of the initiative belonging to M. le Marquis de Torcy (Orne) and M. de Behague (Loiret). These gentlemen, however, were neither of them well placed to give much of a lead to public opinion: for one resided in a very backward neighbourhood, where the farmers had neither spirit nor money to follow a good example, and the other was placed in the vicinity of an indigenous breed, whose esteemed character rendered any effort to displace it most unpopular. In the departments Mayenne and Maine-et-Loire lying west of the great Oolitic basin of Paris, and composed generally of old red sand-stone and granite rocks, this breed has made more way. Whether it has done so because the farming is better and the root crop is more attended to, or whether the improvement in culture has been the consequence of its introduction, it is difficult to say; it is sufficient to remark that these departments have lately made great progress, and that the Durham cattle have well-nigh driven out the Mancelle, a local breed, or absorbed it, and are now to be found as much at home in the homesteads of the mere farmers as they are in some of the most thrifty parts of England.

It must not be forgotten that the result is much owing to the enterprise of Mr. Jamet, who, aided by the manager of La Vacherie du Champ, and M. de Falloux, a landed proprietor of considerable repute, and a successful exhibitor at Poissy, has maintained quite a crusade in favour of the Durham. Following this example, the proprietors of Anjou emulated each other, attended our sales, and carried back some of our finest types with which to found the true stock so well represented at Poissy. Attention has been already called in our report of Poissy to the Herd Book of France, with its 1,500 entries, and of the 143 established breeders; but we have yet to speak of the care exercised by these gentlemen in maintaining the purity of their standard. No animal is admitted to a place amongst the upper ten thousand save such as can show a descent on both sides from pure bred stock; both parents must be unexceptionable in their descent, or there is no admission amongst the privileged order for their progeny. This rule was strictly enforced at Poissy; for the jury displaced several aspirants to the peerage because they lacked, on they dam's side, a proof of nobility, and gave them rank amongst a lower, but very large class designated *Croisements divers*. This care is even carried further by the Emperor, who has directed that in future no