

"A Constant Reader" asks for a cure of worms in sheep's nostrils, a disease which carried off many sheep in the neighbourhood of Fort Erie :—

Minute filariae are frequently found in the respiratory passages of sheep, and oil of turpentine has a very good effect in causing their removal, but should not be injected into the nostrils; it should be given by the mouth, in doses of three drachms, combined with three ounces of linseed oil, and should be repeated every day until three or four doses are given; the nostrils must be sponged several times a day with tepid water, and the strength supported with beer, grain, &c.

Oliver Coles, Yarmouth County, sends the following enquiry :—

"I have a yearling colt that will necessarily have to run to pasture with a mare, that I don't wish to get in foal. The colt shows signs of early maturity. Would it injure him to get him castrated this spring? Some say it will, others say it will do him no harm. What would your advice be?"

We think early castration has many advantages, and that in many respects it is better to perform the operation on yearling colts than on two-year-olds.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says that every time a colt, a calf, or other young animal feels miserable, hungry, cold, or tired, a mark to a certain extent will be left on the general figure.

A correspondent of the *Union Herald* finds nothing equal as a destroyer of lice on cattle, to a strong solution of soft soap and rain water, to which is added common salt. This is applied by rubbing thoroughly over the animal.

**TREATMENT OF LAMB.**—Correspondents of the *Mark Lane Express* testify to the efficacy of a slight application of common coal tar around the navel a few hours after the birth of the lamb, to prevent inflammation, which is often fatal to a great extent on many farms.

**Stock Diseases in Europe.**—The *Continentarian* (English) for February, says that the cattle plague prevails very extensively at the present time in eastern Europe, and that great fears are entertained of its extension from Austria to those states from which England receives a large supply of cattle. Not only are Moldavia, Wallachia and Transylvania greatly infected, but also Poland, Galicia, and Hungary. The pleuro-pneumonia is also said to be on the increase, not only in the London dairies, but in several parts of the country, and on the continent. Recent information reports its existence in a severe form in Spain. The small-pox of sheep is also reported to have recently broken out in the neighbourhood of Hamburg, and to be still prevalent in some parts of Holland, particularly near Rotterdam.

## Stock Department.

### Rise and Progress of Short-horns.

ABRIDGED FROM A PRIZE ESSAY BY HENRY H. DIXON, VOL. I. SECOND SERIES OF THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

The most imperfect treatment of this subject carries us back more than a century, to the days when Bakewell was a living name, and Dishley the head-quarters to which all the best breeders of farm stock made resort. The improved Leicester sheep were steadily gaining a reputation that was destined to become world-wide and permanent; and this great breeder regarded his celebrated herd of Long-horns as destined to represent the roast-beef of Old England for ages to come, little thinking that a race with shorter horns and of earlier maturity, from the banks of the Tees, would ruthlessly push them from their place, and reduce them to a mere fraction in the course of one or two generations. These midland Long-horns were really fine-looking animals, slow growers and feeders, but ultimately attaining to great weights, and they were exported to the northern counties, and to Scotland and Ireland, in considerable numbers, for the improvement of the various native breeds. Among the Irish cattle of the present day, traces of the Long-horn strain are more or less observable.

The Holderness, a fine large-framed breed, with good backs, long quarters, remarkably clean straight legs, and well-developed udders, grazed in the districts north of the Humber. From their general appearance they were thought to be of Dutch origin, and milk was their great specialty. These cattle resembled in many respects the "Teeswaters"—a local name given to the original Short-horns (and hence sometimes called by that name) before the termination of the last century—but it was not until "The Durham Ox" commenced his six years of caravan life in 1801, that the doom of the Long-horn was virtually sealed.

The Tees-water cattle were large, but somewhat ungainly in form, and were thought to yield a better quality of milk than the Holderness, but a smaller quantity. Their origin is involved in considerable obscurity, but a pretty wide opinion has prevailed that they, like the latter, were decidedly imbued with Dutch blood. Herdbooks in those days were not in vogue, and the patient pilgrimage of Coates, through sunshine and shower, with his grey pony and saddlebags, has not had the effect of tracing the breed further back than four crosses beyond "Hubback" (319), who was calved in the year 1777. The brothers Colling, the Maynards, and others, were distinguished for their zeal and judgment in the improvement of the Teeswaters, and prided themselves on the

characteristic merits of their respective herds. Hubback (319) has always been considered the great regenerator of Short-horns; but he did not do Charles Colling so much good as "Foljambe," who was from a "Hubback" cow, and he was parted with at the end of two seasons. The brothers Colling successfully aimed to reduce the size and coarseness of their cattle, and to improve their general symmetry and more valuable points.

Down to 1810 the demand for Short-horns was almost exclusively confined to a few counties, as Durham, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland and Westmoreland. "Comet" was regarded as the most symmetrical bull hitherto seen, and his price, a thousand guineas, elicited general astonishment and admiration. The spirit south of the Humber began to be fairly roused, and in a very few years four or five more counties were added to the domain of the Short-horns. The well-known names of Lord Althorp, Sir Charles Knightley, Harrison, Arbutnot, Bates, &c., characterized and adorned this period. Mr. Bates had been breeding Short-horns by the Tees side for several years, without appearing to have struck out any especial herd line for himself, till he took up his fancy for the "Duchess" tribe. "Belvidere" (1706), of the "Princess" tribe, was the bull which Mr. Bates selected to bring out the "Duchesses." He was small and plain, and with rather rough shoulders, but soft as a mole to the touch. The brothers Colling had a most faithful disciple in the Kirklevington philosopher, as his celebrated show bull, "Duke of Northumberland" (1909), was by "Belvidere," dam by "Belvidere," and was thus bred on precisely the same principle as four of their leading animals—"Comet" and "The Ox," "Punch" and "Broken Horn"—rather an instructive comment on the popular timidity which eschews even an approach to in-breeding. Mr. Bates led the Short-horn ranks of the Royal Agricultural Society both at Oxford and Cambridge, and it was his lot to breed the second one thousand guinea bull, and to fashion the model of the mould in which such cows as "Second Grand Duchess," "Oxford 15th," and "Duchess 77th" were cast and quickened. No one contributed more towards Short-horn progress than Mason of Chilton, who got rid of the open shoulders and improved the fore-quarters generally. Both Earl Spencer and Captain Barclay, and others of not much less note, availed themselves largely of Mason's blood. Whitaker of Butley was distinguished for his milking tribes, and laid much stress upon the purchase of "Magdalena," by "Comet" (155). The "Americans," and more especially Colonel Powell and the Ohio Company had heard of her and her thirty-two quarts in their repeated visits to Butley. They generally left Yorkshire with the belief that "a man might ride four hacks to death in the North, and not find twenty such cows as Mr. Whitaker's;" and they were among his best customers for a series of