

Stock and Dairy.

Disguising Cattle for Exhibition and Sale.

Some years ago, at a fair in Scotland, a bull on exhibition was discovered to have a false pair of horns, so neatly fitted on that the fraud could only be detected by the closest inspection; and his crops, which were low and defective, had, through incisions made in the skin, been blown up to the most ample fullness and perfection. The fraud was exposed, and the owner disqualified from exhibiting in future. This was an extreme case, aggravated by the cruelty of the means used to deceive the judges. But it must be confessed that practices are tolerated at public sales and cattle shows which, excepting the cruelty of the method, are no less objectionable in being designed to deceive, than the case here mentioned.

Granting that over feeding and forcing to an unnatural and unhealthy state of obesity is not to be regarded as fraudulent, because the condition can be seen, and that all the labor bestowed in washing and brushing is only to remove the dirt, what shall we say of the practice of coloring the horns, of oiling the hair, and of that most foolish of all the "tricks of the trade," shaving the tails and cutting out the curly locks in the faces of the bulls? How this latter practice originated is a mystery to us; certainly not with any man that was a judge of cattle. We cannot have too much hair on a Shorthorn, and especially about the head of a bull, and the more curly and shaggy it is, the better.

As to oiling the hair, we confess that the first lot of cattle we ever saw in a sale ring that had been nicely gone over with this process, deceived us; we thought the quality was wonderful, the hair appeared so fine and silky, and the hide so soft!

There is no denying the fact that all these artificial means to improve the appearance of stock on sale or exhibition, are designed to deceive, and are, therefore, objectionable and fraudulent, and ought to be discontinued and eradicated; and we sincerely hope that all respectable breeders of Shorthorns will set their faces against them.—*National Live Stock Journal*.

Butter in France.

If our dairymen need a spur, an eye-opener, a lesson which speaks volumes in three words, here is one at the head of this article. Butter is actually brought from France, and sold by the New York dealers. And this is thus because there is an actual scarcity in the market of good butter put up in an attractive shape for small consumers. When we know that one dairyman gets \$1.15 a pound for his products, another \$1, and another 75 cents, the year round, at his dairy door, it is easily seen that it will pay to bring butter across the ocean from France, if it is only good and shapely enough to suit the fastidious purchasers who will have something nice, whatever it may cost. All this butter is made from choice cows, choicely fed on clean sweet food; the milking is done in the cleanest manner. The milk is handled as carefully as though it were nectar, the cream is churned with clock and thermometer, the butter is worked with skill, and is made up in shapely cakes, which do not require to be cut when brought to the table. Compare then, this cake—hard, golden yellow, sweet, fragrant and tempting to all the senses—with an unsightly chunk, which is cut out of a greasy keg, and smells of old and rancidity, and is made from ill-kept cream from cows filthily lodged and carelessly milked, and is churned anyhow, and the difference is amply accounted for.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

Dogs as Sheep Protectors.

I used to breed cattle, but having a natural fondness for sheep, and an opportunity to purchase a couple of Scotch colley shepherd dogs removing my fear on the score of destruction by mongrel curs, which deters so many from keeping sheep, I concluded to try the experiment which has resulted so satisfactorily.

In my stock of 100 ewes I have half a dozen bells, and in case of danger the sheep all run to the dogs for protection. This familiarity between the dogs and sheep, with the watchful care exercised, is one of the prettiest sights in the world. These faithful guardians of the flock are ever on the alert day and night. The rapid tinkling of the bells at once arouses the dogs; and about three

weeks ago, in the middle of the night, I heard an unusual disturbance among the sheep, but was so confident that the dogs would be equal to the emergency, that I did not come down stairs. In the morning I had the satisfaction of seeing one of the worthless curs which go prowling about at night, lying stone dead along the fence, with marks on him of a desperate fight. I should say, however, that I made one cross by putting my shepherd dog to a Newfoundland slut, and kept the choicest of the litter. He has proved a fine, large dog, about twice the weight of either of the shepherds, and though never interfering in what he seems to consider their special duty, is always on hand ready for service.

It is curious to observe how, when strange dogs cross the place, the two shepherd dogs will take a survey, and if they see much business (they are themselves great fighters), by a kind of silent understanding and arrangement, the three dogs go together; and although we in this country are overrun with all kinds of dogs, there seems to be a general fear of my three dogs, and we are seldom disturbed. I recommend the purchase of one or two good shepherd dogs as the first step towards keeping sheep.

Devon Cattle for Butter and Beef.

The question—What would be the value of Devon cattle for a butter dairy, combined with beef raising, in northern sections of the country? is answered by the *Prairie Farmer* as follows:—

Devons are medium milkers, generally, as far as quantity is concerned, but there are instances where individual cows are great milkers. So far as quality is concerned, they rank high for butter making. But our correspondent will bear in mind that beef and butter from one class of animals are not often met with; that is to say, in securing beef points in cattle the milk and butter points in cattle, the milk and butter points are sacrificed, and, *per contra*, when milk and butter is the prime object, beef qualities do not thrive. When bred solely for dairy purposes—selecting animals of superior milking qualities, for that object, this breed has been found highly valuable. The Devons are well fitted for the dairy on account of docility and easy keeping, and other characteristics. It is claimed for them, too, that when the flow of milk ceases, and it is desired to fit a cow for the shambles, the Devons take on flesh very readily under generous feed. It must be remembered, however, that the improvement of any breed for beef is done at a sacrifice of dairy characteristics in the animal, whatever the breed. If a choice of a single breed for general utility was to be made, we do not know that you could do better than to choose Devons.

Hereford Cattle.

The best Herefordshire cattle display all those points which are considered as marks of true beauty in the finest specimens of British cattle; such as a light fore-end, broad and deep bosom, straight back, and a round barrel, produced by a broad projecting rib—the loins broad, the hip-bones spreading wide and standing high and level with the top of the back, and pushing forward to the first rib—long and flat quarters, &c.; and considering the size and weight of these animals, they are remarkably small in the bone, but the feet are more spread than those of lighter cattle. The oxen are in great repute for purposes of husbandry, the plowing in the county of Hereford being almost wholly done by them.

The color of this breed is red or brown, with a white and mottled face; some having circles of flesh-color or yellow round the eyes, and a white circle round the ears at the insertion; a streak of white along the top of the neck to the shoulder; the under part of the throat white, and so continued along the belly to the setting-on of the tail, which should rather project. The legs are also often white, or equal parts white and brown, or red spotted, according to the color of the animal; mostly having a white tassel at the end of the tail.

The bulls, like those of Devonshire, are apt to be high and thick upon the neck, which cannot be considered a blemish, it being peculiar to the bull only, and is undoubtedly the effect of health and high blood.

As breeding is the first object with the Herefordshire farmer, the dairy, of course, is not much considered, and the quantity of milk that an individual cow may give is not often ascertained.

The calves are kept with the cows; and the farmer only attends to the dairy as a convenience for his own family; but it is said the average of a good dairy (of which there are a few) is about 3 cwt. of cheese in a year from one cow, or 2 lbs. of butter by the day through the summer—the calves are of a thrifty nature, the veal of a fine grain, and weighs from 24 to 40 lbs. per quarter, at six or nine weeks old. The cows when fattened weigh from 9 to 12 score the quarter, sometimes from 15 to 16. Oxen from 14 to 18 or 20 score the quarter. They have thin hides, and the weight is proportioned to the size of the animal. There is a smaller breed of cattle in Herefordshire, which seems to be crossed with some of the coarser Welsh breeds, that have a much harder and heavier hide than the larger sort, which shows their excellence in nothing so much as in having a fine soft skin and small bone. Seven or eight years back a good cow and calf was worth from 12 to 15 guineas, which at present would fetch from 18 to 25. A pair of steers, or young oxen for work, then worth £28 now fetch £38, and such oxen from the yoke that were worth £18 each, will now produce from £20 to £30, or more.

What Is Pure Blood?

The following remarks were made by President Welch, of the Iowa Agricultural College, at the recent Short-Horn Breeders' Convention:

While coming here to-day I was thinking of the important subject, how long shall a thoroughbred animal be bred by crossing with a scrub before becoming pure blood? The English rule is, to cross four times with the female, and five times with the male. We take a half-blood and cross with a pure-blood, and we have a quarter-blood, and at the fifth cross we have an animal that has thirty-one parts pure blood to one part scrub—that is, if we compute the crosses arithmetically—but when we take into consideration the fact that the pure blooded animal is prepotent over the scrub, then the animal has but a minute portion of scrub blood. When a pure blooded Short-Horn bull is crossed with a scrub cow the result cannot be computed arithmetically, for the prepotence of the thoroughbred animal over the scrub, controls to a greater or less degree the value of the progeny. The future beef and mutton of this country depend on the value of crossing. I crossed a common cow, a poor milker, with an Ayrshire bull, and the result was an Ayrshire calf resembling his male parent, and with not one perceptible point in favor of its mother; thus the scrub was almost entirely lost. It is impossible to say that a certain number of crosses will produce arithmetical results. The Short-Horn bull is the most prepotent animal on earth, not only particularly but generally; and for example we will take the Seventeens: Suppose there have been nineteen crosses since the importation of 1817, at the present time there would be one two-thousand part of scrub blood in a straight Seventeen; that is, if it was computed arithmetically, but when you take into consideration the prepotence of the pure blood over the scrub you would have an animal as near perfection as it is possible to get. What are the excellences of the Short-Horn but his merit and power to transmit that excellence and merit to his progeny? I recognize, also, the value of strains of families. The value of a strain is that that particular family produces the best Short-Horns. We often find that, by reversion, a very homely or inferior bull, if he be of a good family, will breed back to some of his ancestors and produce them. The principle that like begets like seems to be the true doctrine.

Special Feeding for Butter.

I am in favor of high feeding for butter-making, but the only way in which high feeding increases the quantity of butter is by increasing the quantity of milk. I have read Mr. Stewart's article carefully, and do not find any decided opposition to this view. He advocates special feeding for special purposes; for example, the feeding of roots, cooking of food, feeding liberally with grain, etc., to make the winter's food equal to grass, the "proper" and normal food of the cow, during the summer. All of these practices are calculated to increase the quantity of milk, and of course, the quantity of butter. But when he comes to consider the question, "Does quality of food effect the quality of milk?" he answered affirmatively, "with a qualification." "He had taken a cow which gave milk requiring 28 pounds to make a pound of butter, and in two years, by special feeding, he had been able to get a pound of butter