

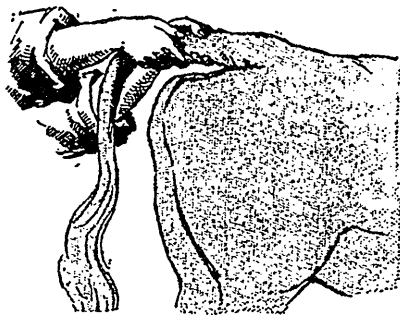
ONE of the greatest curiosities among the domesticated animals of Ceylon is a breed of cattle known to the zoologist as the "sacred running oxen." They are the dwarfs of the whole ox family, the largest specimen of the species never exceeding thirty inches in height. One sent to the Marquis of Canterbury in the year 1891, which is still living and is believed to be somewhere near ten years of age, is only twenty-two inches high, and weighs but 109½ lbs. In Ceylon they are used for quick trips across the country with express matter and other light loads, and it is said that four of them can pull the driver of a two-wheeled cart and a 200-lb. load of miscellaneous matter sixty or seventy miles a day. They keep up a constant swing trot or run, and have been known to travel 100 miles in a day and a night without either food or water. No one knows anything concerning the origin of this peculiar breed of miniature cattle. They have been known on the island of Ceylon and in other Buddhistic countries for more than a thousand years.

At the present time the Argentine Republic is Great Britain's best customer for purebred stock. During last year over eighty per cent. of the foreign export trade of purebred Shorthorn cattle and Lincoln sheep went to that country. Hereford and Polled Angus cattle have also been bought. There is an important incentive to improve the quality of the herds in the growing export trade in live bullocks. This trade, which is scarcely more than five years old, has developed so rapidly that Argentina now ranks third as an exporting country of live bullocks, and second as an exporter of sheep. For good export animals, well-finished, £7 to £8 per head is paid. On the other hand, the *saladeros*, or jerked and salted beef factories, and local buyers only pay £2 10s. to £3 for the poorly bred steers. The great difference of values between the two classes of butcher stock is therefore a powerful incentive to the breeder to procure the best sires he can obtain. A demand for such sires has naturally had its effect in England, and the increased exportation of bulls to the Argentine is likely to continue.

Feeling the Pulse.

It is an excellent plan for cattle owners to acquaint themselves with the proper method of feeling the pulse of their animals while these are in good health, in order that they may be better fitted to treat them when they show signs of sickness. In the case of cattle, the pulse may be felt

at the right or left hand side of the lower jaw underneath, or at the root of the tail, as in the accompanying illustration, when the pulsations of the rump arteries can be felt on the under face. In the healthy cow or ox the beats of the pulse range from 45 to 50 or 55 per minute, but this does not hold good for younger cattle. In an adult animal suffering from inflammation of the bowels or lungs the number of beats will be found to be twice as many as when in health, while in certain cases of poisoning, liver disorder, or brain trouble, the beats will be less than normal. It takes considerable practice to properly diagnose the character of the pulse, independent of the beats. In the veterinary surgeon's language, it may be "hard," "soft," "full," "small," "quick," or "wiry," as well as "regular" or "irregular." This is ascertained by the impression made on the tips of the fingers when they are resting on the artery. They should press on it not too firmly, nor too lightly, but just sufficiently to discern the beat clearly. The ani-



mal must be standing quietly when the pulse is felt, or errors will be made in diagnosing the case. When once the proper method of feeling the pulse is learnt, it will be a valuable aid to the cattle owner in treating his cattle in the early stages of serious diseases, before these take too strong a hold on them.

The Adaptability of Certain Breeds for Certain Districts.

It is a well-known fact to those who have given the subject proper consideration that certain breeds of cattle are better fitted for some districts than others, but it is sometimes overlooked by those starting herds in some localities. The present breeds of cattle, as we know them in the sections of country where they originated, and where the ancestors from which they sprung had been established for a great many years, have, through all those years since their ancestors were first brought or spread into those parts, acquired