

STOCK RAISING.

THE POINTS OF A SHORTHORN.

At a meeting of the Penrith Farmers' Club, Mr. George R. Hedley, Newcastle-on-Tyne, read a paper, in which he introduced the following tabular statement:

The first essential in a shorthorn was a straight back from shoulder to tail. Then when he came to the neck, he would also know that of the male required to be thick at the base, that it should taper along the sides and rise on the top a little towards the head. That of the female should be fine and long, and on a plane with the shoulders, and the whole of the back. The side of each animal should be as near the form of the sides of a barrel as possible, the ends of the barrel being the foremost part of the shoulders and the hindmost parts of the thighs. The legs should not be much crooked, and the head of the male should be strong and massive, covered on the front with long shaggy hair, that of the female tapering, clean and fine. The eyes of both should be prominent, and those of the female very soft and placid. A judge would always pay deference to thickness of flesh, and there were cases when a little fault in complexion and outline might be overlooked for that great desideratum. The skin in the best breeds would always be found to be soft and springy, moderately thick, and clad with long, bright, silky hair. If there was a doubt about the supremacy of quality, that with the finest hair and most pliable skin along the top of the loins and hooks should be placed first. Any dereliction from a gentle curvature in the horn was to be eschewed, and the fashionable color in the horn was yellow and crimson in youth and white in age. His proclivities went in the direction of strong horns instead of short ones as a mark of constitution, and as to the mouth, he considered it should always be rather large if it had to feed a capacious frame. Failing the formation of an examining board and the appointment of qualified judges, the lecturer suggested a table of points, which he studied for a considerable time, but he had never been able to bring it to a highly satisfactory condition until last year, when a table was formed at Kinross and acted upon. He submitted the following table, 100 points being distributed over the whole of the animal in 26 parts:

| PART. | NO. OF POINTS. |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Nostrils—Large and open, and nose end free from blueness or great paleness. Proper color, cream or light drab..... | 1 |
| 2. Nose—Broad and capacious—not too long..... | 1 |
| 3. Eyes—Large, bright, prominent, and placid..... | 2 |
| 4. Skin round the eyes and down the nose end—Thin, clear, and free from brand or blackness..... | 1/2 |
| 5. Horns—Moderately strong, rather flat, open, evenly bent, yellow in youth, getting white towards age, not much tendency upwards, not blackened except very slightly at the tips. Streaks of red not objectionable..... | 2 1/2 |
| 6. Ears—Large, thin, rather yellow inside, and very facile..... | 1/2 |
| 7. Choler or Jewel—Wide across and hanging a tolerably deep fold of loose skins..... | 2 |
| 8. Forehead—Full and broad, and in the male clad with long hair..... | 2 1/2 |
| 9. Neck—Thick at the base, tapering gradually and growing fine towards the head in the male, a little arched on the top and rough with hair; in the female, clean, tapering, long, and upon a plane with the shoulders and back..... | 6 |
| 10. Shoulders—Massive, well clad with muscle and flesh, blades sloping backwards to favor good action, and well covered shoulder points and fore flanks..... | 6 |
| 11. Crops and Chine—Full, broad and rather round on the top, and exactly on a plane with the shoulders and loins..... | 7 |
| 12. Loins—Broad, long, and soft from one side to the other, the skin yielding to the touch upon any part of them; thick fleshed, and on a plane with chine and quarters..... | 7 |
| 13. Ribs—Springing well out from the back bone like part of a hoop, continuing their capacity downwards to the heart, and backwards extending very | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| nearly up to the hooks..... | 5 |
| 14. Belly—Not small and tucked up, nor bending much downwards in the middle. When the animal is very fat it ought to form a straight line parallel with the back bone..... | 8 |
| 15. Quarters—Long, broad, soft and level with the loins and tail. There should not be any hollow between the hook and rump end; the whole ought to be regularly covered with soft flesh. The base of the tail should not be any higher than the rumps, and the tail ought to hang at right angles with the back bone..... | 7 |
| 16. Thighs and Twists—Broad, straight and large, but not protruding out behind, as that denotes coarseness..... | 4 |
| 17. Flanks—Fore flanks should swell outwards and run level into the shoulders. The hind flanks should be deep and full, and on a level with the hips and thighs..... | 4 |
| 18. Chest—Large and wide across from the bones of the shoulders to the midriff, giving plenty of room to the heart and lungs..... | 7 |
| 19. Legs—Fore legs straight, plump and fine. Hind legs nearly straight, wide apart, and fine..... | 4 |
| 20. Brisket—Deep, wide, and protruding forwards..... | 8 |
| 21. Neck Veins—Full and level, and running nearly into the shoulders..... | 3 |
| 22. Touch—Soft, springy and elastic; the skin moderately thick, and capable of being lifted on the top of the loins and over the hooks..... | 4 |
| 23. Hair—Long, fine, thick and bright..... | 5 |
| 24. Color—Any mixture of red and white, namely, roan; or red with white. A very dark red or a very light red, or a spotted red and white objectionable. Roan the most preferable, red the next..... | 8 |
| 25. Size—Medium best. Very large beasts do not produce the best beef-making animals, and they require more food..... | 3 |
| 26. Style and Carriage—Should walk straight, with free shoulder action, holding the head high, and presenting a gay and graceful appearance..... | 4 |
| Total..... | 100 |

—Mark Lane, (London,) Express.

SCAB IN SHEEP.

It is clearly ascertained by scientific men, that scab in sheep, like the itch in the human being is connected with and propagated by certain minute insects belonging to the class of acaria, which inhabit pimples or pustules. But the question naturally arises, How came it first into existence? This problem is very difficult of solution, and puzzles the most eminent physiologists. But as I have already said, I have never known it to break out spontaneously among a lot of sheep properly managed, during thirty years' experience as a shepherd in pastoral districts. Various and conflicting opinions exist as to what extent the disease is infectious. Some affirm that it requires sheep to come in contact with the disease before it can be communicated, while others maintain that the disease is propagated by the mere traveling on the road, such as a public drove road, from large markets or fairs. I, however, do not think the disease is so catching as the latter advocates affirm. For example, I acted as shepherd for sixteen years, on various farms, where the drove road from Falkirk to the Souty pass through the sheep pasture, and every year some of the lots of sheep were more or less affected with scab, and during all that period not a single sheep of which I had charge caught the disease.

The cure of scab lies in the destruction of the insect, but the important question is, What is the best composition or infusion for that purpose? The remedies that are commonly applied are numerous, but the most effectual, with the least danger of injuring the animal, that I have ever seen applied, is common spirits of tar; and, if properly applied, will penetrate and destroy the insect concealed in the pustules, or buried beneath the skin. The quantity applied may vary according to the condition and age of the sheep, but for hill, or ordinary breeding stock, one bottle of spirits of tar, mixed with twelve times the quantity of water, is sufficient for twelve sheep, or one common wine glass of the tar, mixed with twelve times the amount of water, is sufficient for one. If mixing for a hundred, six gallons with six pounds of common soda ought to be warmed to a boiling pitch; then add the spirits of tar.—Highland Agricultural Society.

CROSS-BREEDING—WILL IT PAY?

We have had many inquiries of late from farmers who have been breeding fine woolled sheep in regard to the advantages of the mutton breeds. In most instances, these inquiries seem to be induced by a dissatisfaction with the low prices that are offered for Merino wools, though, in one or two instances, we have complaints that since the inauguration of the practice of pungering and housing high bred sheep, the Merinos are believed to be less hardy than formerly.

In reply to the question whether it is wise to try the experiment of cross-breeding, we have to say that, in view of low prices made by fine wools, as compared with the coarser staples, especially the delaine wools, we are of the opinion that the ordinary farmer who keeps a moderate number of sheep in connection with other branches of agriculture, may profitably breed his ewes to rams that give a better carcass with a larger fibre of wool.

As to the breed likely to prove most profitable of the mutton varieties, though the Downs are the most hardy and the most prolific, and produce altogether the best quality of meat, we should doubt if this cross would be as profitable as the Lincoln or the Cotswold or the Lancaster. Our own small flocks composed of pure bred Southdowns, and to these we have adhered for many years, because of the superior quality of the mutton. But until the mutton is better appreciated in American markets, so as to command, as it should, a higher price than the larger and coarser sorts, the Downs can hardly be expected to increase as rapidly as some other breeds.

If a long wool ram is selected to cross on Merino ewes, care should be taken to select snug compact forms, of only moderate size.

Large sheep are never as good or profitable as those of medium size, and especially is this true when we select rams of the large, long wool breeds to cross on the Merinos.

In selecting for this purpose we should not care which of the three varieties we secured, if the animal suited in form and fleece. We should have a square, compact carcass, on short legs, with short and stout neck, a fleece of good lustre, even in quality, and covering all parts of the body.

The advantages to be expected from this cross would be: improved carcass, of better mutton, maturing at a much earlier age, and, as the markets now are, yielding a more valuable fleece than the full blood Merino. We should regard the experiment as involving no risk whatever, as the produce, in case it were desirable to return to the pure blood, could at any time be disposed of for mutton without any possible loss.

We are perfectly familiar with the cross here recommended, and have always found it satisfactory. The cross-bred progeny have the form and general appearance of the long wools, with a fleece of much greater density, the staple being very desirable for delaine goods and commanding a much higher price than Merino. The sheep are always hardy and remarkably good feeders. Another of the long wools makes a splendid fleece, namely, as long in fibre as the full blood, and yielding much better weights, because of its greater density.

Rams suitable for crossing may be had at from \$25 to \$50.—Patron's Helper.

HORSE TROTTING.—With suitable preparation and management, not only does a healthy horse suffer no distress from trotting a moderate distance at the top of his speed, but enjoys it as much as his driver. The match trotter is peculiarly gifted with powers of locomotion, and his wonderful mechanism can only be appreciated when in full operation. To most persons a closely contested trot is a beautiful and attractive spectacle, and experience proves that nothing affords a more delightful and harmless amusement for the people, provided the surroundings and associations are of the proper kind. The usual accompaniments of the race course—quarreling, profanity, intoxication, gambling and public betting—may and should always be everywhere prevented. The morals of the community are of more consequence than the breeds of horses. There is no more occasion for immorality in connection with a trotting match than in connection with an exhibition of skill and swiftness in skating.—Pres. Clark of Mass. Ag. Col.

SALE OF SHORTHORNS.

The demand for this breed of cattle is truly surprising. At a recent sale of B. B. Groom & Son, Winchester, Ky., sixty-four head of females averaged \$1,709, and nine bulls, \$1,557 each. But the most remarkable of all was the sale of the three months old heifer calf, 22d Duchess of Airdrie, purchased by J. H. Spears & Son, of Illinois, for the fabulous sum of \$17,500. Highland brought \$5,500, while Kirkleavington Duchess and Fenwell Duchess, (imported cows,) went at \$5,100 each. The Oxford Geneva sold for \$5,000.

AMERICAN GIRL, the late game princess of the turf, during the present year, up to the hour of her death, was eight times engaged, winning, in first, second and third money, \$7,400, making a grand total of \$102,800 earnings for her owner. A monument to her memory will be erected near the spot where she fell. A Professor of the Cornell University has made application for her body in order that the skeleton may be placed in the museum of that institution and preserved as a specimen of the bony structures of typical American trotting horses.

THE ARAB'S ADVICE IN CHOOSING A HORSE.—In choosing a horse never take one that has a narrow chest and perpendicular shoulders, or the withers fat and protruding, or the curb prominent or the vesicular small; or if he has a spavin, above all when it is in the neighborhood of the lower veins; or an exostosis when it is near the tendons; or when his back is long and concave; or when he cannot see in the night. Never buy a horse with small shoulders, narrow nostrils, long ears or short, stiff neck. Esteem little a horse who switches his tail while running, rests on his toes, or strikes his front feet with his hind ones—an ambler will never do for a chief; and leave for the pack a deaf horse; for by the sight, hearing and smell a horse can save his master's life.

The best trait in a horse is obedience; a good horse has this quality joined to firmness.

SEVENTY-NINE cattle, after 1,100 miles of inland journey from Illinois, were embarked not long since at Montreal for Europe. Twenty-nine of them succumbed to improper diet during the ocean voyage and had to be consigned to the waves; the remainder arrived at their destination in good condition and were lately sold at Glasgow for an average of \$160 per head. Commenting on these facts the London Agricultural Gazette says: "There can be no doubt that when a little more experience has been gained, and a little more judicious treatment on board ship is exhibited, American beasts can be brought to British emporiums at a profit to the sender, and their presence in our markets would be a decided benefit to the consumers, as they would tend to reduce the extravagant prices now prevailing."

MR. JOSEPH HARRIS, of N. Y., one of the most successful breeders of Cotswold sheep in America, weighed a number of his sheep, Aug. 16th., among which there were four two year old rams which weighed respectively, 265, 262, 249 and 229 pounds. The weight of a number of yearling rams ranged from 165 to 215. Eighteen pure bred ram lambs which were dropped in March, their averaged age varying only a few days from five months, weighed from 86 to 123 pounds, making an average of 97 1/2 pounds. Mr. Harris pronounces the crossing of Cotswold rams on Merino ewes a success. On weighing a number of lambs produced in this way, he found them to range from 55 to 98 pounds, an average for the entire lot of 76 pounds. The mutton was also said to be of very excellent quality.

FARMERS often raise poor stock which will not begin to pay its cost, simply because at the start they save a dollar or two by using an inferior male animal. It is a well established fact that pure bloods transmit their characteristics to their offspring with much more certainty than natives, which being generally a combination of many strains of blood are liable to give us progeny of all imaginable characteristics. But it does not follow that we cannot improve upon our native stock by carefully selecting the breed. Get the best is the true policy.—Dirigo Rural.