APPOINTMENTS FOR TWO MONTHS.

[For the following announcements we have to make the subscribers of the respective Societies.

April 5.—Royal Agricultural Society of England. Leamington. (See Notice.)

April 7.—Kent Agricultural Society. Abergavenny.


April 11.—Norwich Farmers' Club. Paper by Mr. J. B. Le Goff on "Agricultural Statistics.

April 11.—Norwich Farmers' Club. Meeting.

April 21.—Norwich Farmers' Club. Meeting.

April 23.—London Agricultural Society's Show at Smithfield.

April 24.—Gorleston Chamber of Agriculture. Eastern Counties' Meeting.

April 30.—Worcester Chamber of Agriculture.

May 2.—1st.—Exeter Agricultural Society's Annual Meeting.

May 2.—2nd. — Exeter Agricultural Society's Annual Meeting.

May 2.—3rd. — Exeter Agricultural Society's Annual Meeting.

May 2.—4th. — Exeter Agricultural Society's Annual Meeting.

May 5, 6, 7.—Metropolitan Sheep Show and Congress at the Royal Agricultural Society, Agricultural Hall, London.

May 7.—Association of Agricultural Journalists. London.

May 7.—London Farmers' Club. Paper on "Agricultural Machinery as Illustrated at the Philadelphia Exposition," by Mr. J. W. Spencer, Secretary, York.

May 12.—Fellows of the Royal Society. London.

May 13.—Norwich Farmers' Club. Meeting.

May 13.—Newcastle Agricultural Association's Show at Tynemouth.

May 14.—Chichester Agricultural Association's Show at Chichester.

May 15.—Worcester Agricultural Association's Show at Worcester.

May 20.—Sheffield Agricultural Society. Meeting.

May 25.—Gorleston Chamber of Agriculture. Meeting.

THE AGRICULTURAL GAZETTE.

MONTDAY, APRIL 2, 1877.

THE CATTLE PLague has appeared during the past week in the extreme west of the metastipial district, and has somewhat crippled the enormous export trade between Botolph Green and Shepherd's Bush. It appears from the report of the Cattle Plague Committee of the Metropolitan Board of Works, to which reference is made in our Market Supplement, that the infection in this instance may possibly have been carried by a quarantined veterinary practitioner who has been going from farm to farm through the metropolitan district in the pursuit of his occupation as an inspector of plague-breeding farms. Whether this be so or not, it is, we need not say, the greatest importance that every cowkeeper, whether in town or country, shall be on his guard. The veterinary inspector—resulting in maintaining the strictest quarantine for himself. No stranger should be allowed access to the cowhouse on any pretence whatever. If the man most interested—the owner himself—be not careful of his property, what likelihood is there of Government superintendence ever proving serviceable? Two contributions, which appear to-day under the heading "Scrubell and In-breeding," deserve the careful attention of every breeder of every variety of domesticated animal. The statement of our greatnaturalist, that "conclusions drawn from the one kingdom may fairly be applied to the other," is entitled to the respect which the scientific idiom demands for all its assertions, by a lifetime spent in the intelligent, laborious, persevering endeavor to discover truth. Yet it must be maintained that although to widen the field of observation may help to account for the general law, it does not necessarily indicate immediately the safest method for the special practitioner to pursue.

Mr. Darwin's Work on The Effects of Cross and Seduction Breeding. It is one of the most remarkable works with which he now favors our readers, and, of course, must valuable contributions to a full discussion of the subject. In breeding, its advantages, its disadvantages, and consequences, is a work of surpassing difficulty! How far may an acknowledged tendency to scrubell be disregarded by the breeder of cows? Let us, as far as we can, our second contributor gives even more immediate help, though he does not offer us such a far-reaching illustration of the position.

There are two different questions involved in the point raised in the present instance. The first is,—How far is it for the interest of the community at large that a "scrubellous" tendency should be tolerated in male breeding animals? The second, and more important,—How far breeders of such animals are prepared to neglect their own interest by "swapping the dirt behind the door," rather than by clearing it out of the house altogether and then cleaning up afterwards.

It must be assumed that a "scrubellous tendency" has been proved to exist in closely inbred stock. Let it be remembered that all the possible ill-effects upon the health of the ears, of the condition of the thing eaten, must be considered in determining that such a tendency is an established fact. And the secondary matter—how far scrubellous creatures can be wholly founded upon material, and that the medical papers, as being appropriate rather to them, or else to the different Local Sanitary Authorities.

Accepting these considerations, there still remains to be considered if it be for the interest of the public, or of breeders generally, that the presence of a "scrubellous tendency" in highbred animals should be allowed to continue. Among the interest of the public in Great Britain is held to be more important than the interests of any one class, large or small, we may conclude what remarks we have some facts to-day to the former opinion. —i.e., Do the public gain by keeping up—and before it has received something like a satisfactory handling—a discussion which a correspondent, after the fashion of an expert tribunal, had evoked.

The existence of what our second correspondent has denominated a "deficiency or feebleness of that vital power which tends to resist the invasion of disease" is not a matter to be trifled with! When contagious diseases of a several kinds are raging, and social conditions tend to make them all the more necessary continue to be—from time to time circulated among us, a vigorous constitution, in fact, "making the creature to endure and to hold on to life, and eventually to recover and to throw off the results or effects of the malady, and to gain health," is an attribute of which no style nor style should be allowed to tamper.

It seems to us that, if the presence of indigent on our shores be a matter as it is—which the Imperial Government, even at a time of a European crisis, is not justified in overlooking; so much more are minor authorities, such for example as the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Lord Say and Sele has been able to assert that the cattle were free from disease. The Society's experience has been good, and the disease has been kept under control. In 1876, the Society's Board of Agriculture has been able to state that the result of the investigations of the disease were so favorable that the disease had been completely eradicated. It is to be feared that such a statement of the society's Board of Agriculture, in 1876, would be no more satisfactory than the Society's Board of Agriculture of 1875, or 1876, or even the present service, which would be justly regarded as a victory over the disease. We are under the impression that the disease will be eradicated in the future, but that it will be eradicated in the future, but that it will be eradicated in the future.

I will venture to add a few remarks on the general question of cross-bredming. Sexual reproduction is so essentially the same in plants and animals, that I think we may fairly apply conclusions drawn from the one kingdom to the other. From a long series of experiments on plants, given in my book On the Effects of Cross and Seduction Breeding, it is generally concluded that the cross-bredming of plants is a desirable and necessary practice. But in this particular instance we have such good evidence of the hereditary habits of the species, and such good confirmation of the same, that it seems to me very much to be desired, that the cross will produce a plant thus tainted. In all probability a large majority of the offspring of a cross between a scrubellous bull, with a non-scrubellous cow, would be to all appearance sound, but it can hardly be doubted that the evil would be latent in many of them, and ready to break out in subsequent generations.

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been bred during several generations at a distant place, under as different conditions of soil, climate, etc., as possible, for in this case he might hope that the offspring, by having gained in constitutional vigor would be enabled to throw off the taint in their blood. — Charles Darwin, March 22.

For the following letter I have to thank a correspondent whose large professional experience enables him to speak with confidence on the same subject.

I have read with interest the letters that have appeared in your paper lately on the subject of cattle breeding, and particularly with reference to the diverse views which it is evident are held with regard to the desirability of using a bull of fashionable family, even though, being inbred, he has what, for want of a better term, are known as scrofulous tendencies.

It is argued by “Shellaker” that the use of such a bull is harmless if the cow served by him is of good constitution and of no relationship. I cannot agree with this proposition; and, if you will allow me, I will endeavor to show by analogy with the human being in what way I consider the interests of the cattle breeder and most producers would be endangered by such a practice. In the first place, let us clearly understand what is meant by the term scrofula. The

ment-bane, perhaps, suppuration of the glands of the neck or jaw. Swelling and ulceration of the intestinal glands, constituting one form of the scrofulous disease, may occur from a trilling and often obscure cause. There is also great prominence of the unctuous symptoms to congestion and consequent leakage of altered mucus; which, mingled with the decomposing epithelium, gives rise to the fetid odor of the breath, which is frequently observed in cases of the scrofulous constitution. We might fairly determine in the case of scrofulous animals, in a condition of system, to proceed to destruction and death; and often accompanied with impatient development, debility, intemperance and malnutrition. The active and tangible manifestations of scrofula, namely, glandular tumours, enlarged joints, tubercular deposits, etc., are obviously only the result, in one or other of the tissues or organs, of an existing cause occurring in a creature endowed with the scrofulous constitution.

What can now be said as to the cause of the scrofulous constitution? Undoubtedly in many-breeding will give rise to it. Why? It is the penalty attached to the violation of a natural law. Want of light, want of pure air, want of wholesome and sufficient food will cause it; and want of exercise, inactivity in its true form, will give rise to what may be described as special rather than general indications of the scrofulous constitution; for it amounts almost to a law that an organ that is diseased, or artificially injured, in the parent, is found to be weak and prone to disease in the offspring.

word derived from “scoth,” a sow, on account of the supposed special liability of swine to swellings and tumours. What I understand by the term scrofula is a certain constitutional condition, either of a human being or animal, in which the following characteristics are present, either in a latent or active form.

Firstly, and most important, there is a deficiency or feebleness of that vital power which tends to resist the invasion of disease, and which, when disease occurs, enables the creature to endure and hold on to life, and eventually to recover, and throw off the results or effects of the malady and to regain health. This we understand to mean is probably due to perfect integrity and power in the nerve centres; for defective innervation (nervous supply) causes unquiet or degenerative irritations of a part; for example, fat may be formed in the place of muscles, in other words an interior formation in the place of the normal one. This tendency to degeneration, i.e., the formation of a tissue of a lower and less vital and complex organization, is well illustrated when disease attacks a scrofulous subject; for example, the organs whatever in pleurisy would more readily become paralytic, and therefore the disease process is more fatal in a scrofulous constitution than in one that is not so.

In the scrofulous constitution there is a great tendency to swelling and low inflammatory affections in the glandular system, on the least provocation; for instance, the irritation of toothache will cause enlargement, scrofula.

For example, a tailor and a somnambulist both follow a sedentary occupation; they neither of them use their limbs as much as should be used, i.e., in expanding in walking, running, etc. The sleeping of a couple will be exceedingly prone to scrofulous manifestations of a special kind, i.e., tubercles of the lung. Witness, again, Shakespeare’s remark applied to a weak-minded youth, “How, how; you mad man, thy father beat thee while he was drunk.”

Now, if what I have written is correct, and I believe it to be so, it is sound reasoning to say that if one healthy and one scrofulous parent be better than two scrofulous ones, certainly two parents free from scrofula are better still; and therefore “Shellaker’s” assertion that one healthy parent is sufficient cannot be maintained. In other words, I contend that the use of the same bull of scrofulous constitution will give rise to a lesser degree, to those characteristic and predispositions which are so characteristically described as belonging to the scrofulous constitution. We do not want cattle prone to disease, and unable to live out of doors, to live in and upon the rocks and in broken ground. We do not want animals with a tendency to form fat rather than muscles. Let this be remembered by the breeder when tempted to employ a personable hound of doubtful constitution. Let our Shorthorn jockey also bear it in mind, and not be too much in the matter of fine muscles, thin, soft skins, etc.

Second beans are very dear money points.

And healthy gams than Doutit blood.

Best Harte’s narrator of the adventures of “that fat silly Chiquita,” and should be discussed with some some real care, equivalent to those of his— that boys will be boys, and that horses is losses.

The American and Canadian Shorthorn breeders, we learn from Messrs. Bailey & May’s Shorthorn Reports, subdivide the members of this tribe into several families, which trace to three or four imported animals. The best American families would seem to be the Red Rose and the Lady Sate. The latter has the merit (if merit it) that comparatively little fresh blood has been added in the States to that old Lady sate by General Salt, bred at Wolviston. This cow’s blood is almost identical with that of Mr. McIntosh’s Lady Sate, and of the Princess cow which went from Mr. Atkins to Mr. Cheney. To this family belongs the fine cow whose portrait we give today. This is Lady Salt of Penrith, who formed one of our early importations from beyond the Atlantic to Leicestershire pastures. She was sold at one of the highest prices in that county, and her son, Earl of Royston, to join the noble herd at Undertory. She is a slight cow of grand outlines, and of an intense red, which seems as if it would stain their fingers.

At Undertory Lady Salt of Penrith finds herself in the company of “Prince” cows and heifers of several different families; yet can hold her own in favour with her master and with his visitors. In her importers’ hands she bred a bull and she bred Undertory—the only being served to Sir John Swithuns. She has in her pedigrees but two