

SF

1-15

B7

UC-NRLF



\$B 70 464

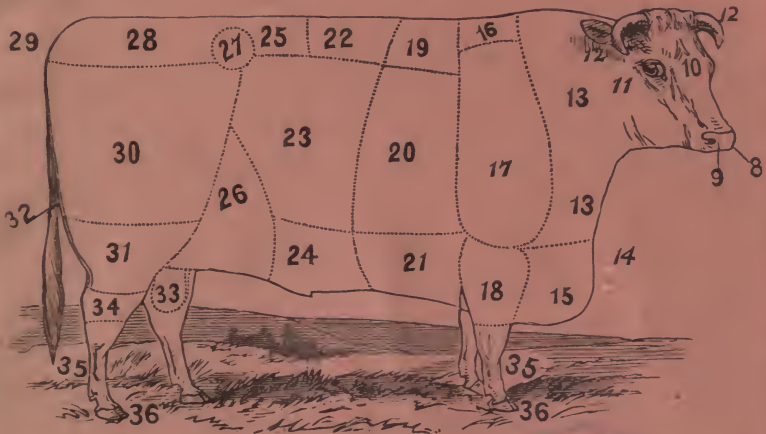


YC 20803

511
M. Animals
B

THE
PRESENT SYSTEM
OF
JUDGING STOCK:
ITS FAULTS AND THEIR REMEDY.

WITH
FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT POINTS OF SHORTHORN
CATTLE.



BY
ALEXANDER BRUCE,
Chief Inspector of Stock for New South Wales.

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

SYDNEY:
PRINTED BY GIBBS, SHALLARD, & CO., STEAM PRINTERS, 108 PITT STREET
1877.

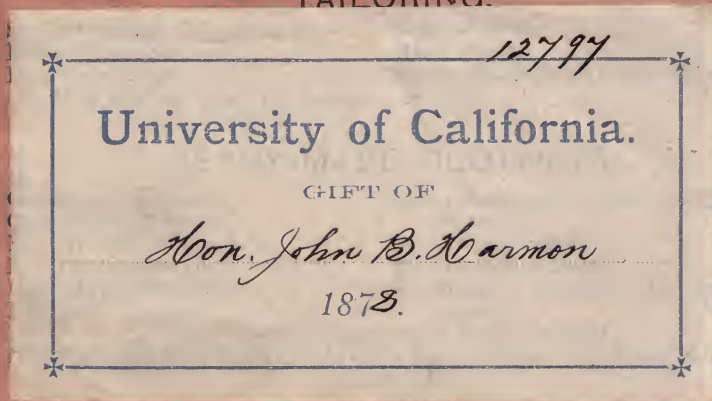
PRICE 1s. 6d.

METROPOLITAN EXHIBITION, 1877.

VISITORS' attention to our Autumn and Winter importations, which are now complete, is urgently requested. We have for some years past supplied numbers of residents in the country, both in this and neighbouring colonies, with their season's goods; our experience in importing the requisite articles is, therefore, great; and we offer to those who have not yet dealt with us goods at moderate prices in great variety, embracing all descriptions and qualities; discount being allowed for cash purchases.

We recapitulate a few of the Winter Goods just opened from recent arrivals.

TAILORING.



GENUINE MACINTOSH RAINPROOF CLOTHING.

Macintosh's peculiar Rainproof Overcoats, warranted.

The new Military Macintosh Overcoat.

The new Sergette Macintosh Overcoat.

The new Check Tweed Macintosh, cannot be discerned from an ordinary Coat.

Boys' Macintosh Overcoats, Boys' Ulster Overcoats.

Gentlemen's White Shirts, every size, description, and quality.

Men's Crimeans, fine or heavy.

Portmanteaus, Travelling Trunks, Overland Trunks, Ladies' Trunks, Solid Leather Hand Bags.

Brushes, Combs, Perfumery, Sponges, &c.

THOMPSON & GILES,

TAILORS, OUTFITTERS, SHIRTMAKERS, MEN'S MERCERS

DENISON HOUSE, GEORGE STREET,

OPPOSITE BANK OF N. S. WALES.

THE
PRESENT SYSTEM
OF
JUDGING STOCK:

ITS FAULTS AND THEIR REMEDY.

WITH

FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT POINTS OF SHORTHORN
CATTLE.

BY

ALEXANDER BRUCE,

Chief Inspector of Stock for New South Wales.



SYDNEY:

PRINTED BY GIBBS, SHALLARD, & CO., STEAM PRINTERS, 108 PITT STREET.

1877.

PRICE 1s. 6d.

2015

SF115
B7

SECRET SYSTEM

JUDGING STOCK

TO: [illegible] AND [illegible] 16/21

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

INDEX.

I.—FAULTS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

	PAGE.
1. It leads to Judges giving erroneous awards—	
(1.) Through want of ability	} 5
(2.) Through too great hurry	
(3.) Through predilection	
2. It gives no reasons for decisions	6
3. It gives no information in regard to Exhibits	7
4. It does little or nothing to educate	7

II.—THE REMEDY—THE POINT SYSTEM.

1. Mode of initiating the system	8
2. Its advantages—	
(1.) Correct awards	8
(2.) Ample information to Exhibitors and the public	8
(3.) It is highly educational	9
3. The objections urged against this System—	
(1.) Paucity of Judges capable of judging by Points	} 12
(2.) Its tediousness	
(3.) The disinclination of Judges to use it	

III.—SCALE OF POINTS FOR SHORTHORN CATTLE.

1. Plate of Bull showing Points	15
2. Scale of Points and their values—	
(1.) In detail	} 16
(2.) In groups	
(3.) In divisions	

IV.—DESCRIPTION OF THE POINTS.

1. Size	19
2. Quality	19
3. Form	21

V.—IMPEDIMENTS TO ADOPTION OF POINT SYSTEM.

1. Its novelty	24
2. Its apparent intricacy	24
3. Judges' dislike to details	24
4. Disinclination of Breeders to study details of System	25
5. Ignorance of its advantages	25

VI.—STANDARD OF POINTS.

1. Authoritative scales for guidance of Judges	26
2. Authoritative scales for use of Agricultural Colleges	26

VII.—MEASUREMENT OF STOCK EXHIBITED.

1. For the information of Judges	26
2. As a record of Stock Exhibited	27

VIII.—OVER-FEEDING OF BREEDING STOCK.

1. Defects in existing Regulations	28
2. The remedy	28

APPENDICES.

Award Paper A.
Analysis B.
Award Paper C.
Award Paper D.

Award Paper used at Philadelphia.

P R E F A C E.

IN presenting the following remarks upon the important subject of Judging Stock at Exhibitions, I feel the utmost deference for the practical knowledge of our stockowners, and would not venture to disagree, as I am aware I will do with many of them, were it not that the subject has been a matter of long and special study to me, to a degree far exceeding that which they can have bestowed upon it.

Having before us the fact that, under the present system of judging, errors are of very frequent occurrence, that there is little or no prospect of a settlement of the wide divergence of opinion which now prevails among acknowledged Judges as to the value of the different points and qualities of stock, and that little or no real teaching is being given on these points at our Exhibitions; and believing, as I do, that until all descriptions of stock are judged by points, these evils will never be remedied,—I make no apology for this attempt to ventilate the question, affecting as it does in no indirect way the progress of the great Pastoral interest of the Australian Colonies.

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA.

THE JUDGING OF LIVE STOCK.

I.—FAULTS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

1. *It leads to erroneous Awards.*—This it does from three causes.
 - (1.) Through a want of ability on the part of the judges.
 - (2.) Through the hurried manner in which they judge.
 - (3.) Through prejudice on their part for, or against, particular breeds, or strains of blood, and through over or under valuing particular points in the stock.

The *first* cause is, up to a certain extent, at the larger shows at least, of comparatively rare occurrence, but oftener than is generally allowed; for, when the entries are numerous, and the exhibits nearly on a par—some excelling in one point but defective in another—it not unfrequently happens that judges are led, by the present “rule of thumb” system, to commit palpable mistakes. For example, cattle are being shown in a class, some of which are high in “quality” but inferior in “form;” others, again, are good in some points of “form” but defective in others, while some are good in both “quality” and “form,” but defective in “vigour” and “size.” The judge is, of course, anxious to act fairly to the exhibitors, and sets about summing up and balancing in his mind the good and bad qualities or points of the several exhibits, in order to arrive at a correct decision; and any one can see that this process of mental calculation stands a very poor chance of leading to a correct decision under the perplexing circumstances in which the judges are placed. In fact, the decisions of all but the very best judges are, in such cases, little better than good guesses. If, again, this be true as regards the judges individually, it can easily be seen how very much worse the case is as regards the judges collectively; and how much more difficult it is for them—if they do not set down the marks for the value of the different points in black and white—to arrive at correct and unanimous decisions, where the exhibits are of nearly equal but of diversive merit. There are generally three judges acting in a class, and it is no uncommon thing, at first, at least, to find them all holding different opinions as to the merits of the several exhibits, and each dwelling on the excellences of the

animal he prefers, and the defects of those favoured by his fellow-judges. The consequence is, that they either allow the judge with the largest amount of argument to have his way, or they perhaps settle the matter by casting lots as to whose opinion is to be followed.

The *second* cause—too hurried decisions—is of too frequent occurrence. Even where the number of exhibits is comparatively small, it is too much the custom with some judges to hurry through the work. Where, again, the exhibits are numerous, it is a matter of necessity for one set of judges to go quickly through them. When it is considered that the whole aim of the show may be defeated, and months of preparation and heavy outlay thrown away through this carelessness or haste, to the bitter disappointment of the exhibitors, and of those who have had the management of the exhibition, it is the height of folly to run the risk of giving incorrect awards through hurrying over the judging.

The *third* cause of erroneous awards alluded to is prejudice on the part of the judge for a particular breed of stock or strain of blood, or for a particular point of the animal, and a dislike, or at least a disregard, for the others.

The fact of some judges being prejudiced in favour of particular breeds and families and of particular strains of blood is so natural and notorious as to require no proof. If it did, the remark which is constantly heard of such and such a judge being a "Booth," and the next a "Bates" man, would be sufficient confirmation of the assertion.

It is equally natural, and quite as notorious, that some judges consider certain points of "quality" or "form" the most essential in a beast, and set too low a value on others. This has a most material effect on the decision, especially when the question as to whether "quality" or "form" should have the call turns up. Even where points of "form" are pitted against each other, the divergence of opinion among judges is often very great, and those, who are otherwise good judges, give very erroneous decisions both through under and over-valuing particular points.

These erroneous awards of course account for the want of uniformity or rather divergence of opinion which we every day see in respect to the same animals coming before different judges, and which tends so much to confusion and doubt as to the value of the different points in stock, and the excellences and defects which the animals exhibited.

2. *The present system of judging does not require the judges to give the reasons for their awards; and it, therefore, fails to satisfy the bulk of the exhibitors, as it ought to do, that they have been fairly dealt with.*—It is impossible, under any system of judging, to satisfy *all* the exhibitors that the awards are *all* correctly made, and that all the animals are properly placed; but the majority of those who call the judges' decisions in question do so through ignorance; and, if the excellences and defects of the exhibits were pointed out by the judges,

and the reasons for their decisions thus given, this class of exhibitors, who are now discontented, would be satisfied that the judges had acted fairly, and would make no complaint. The present system of judging is therefore unsatisfactory, as it does nothing towards allaying this needless discontent.

3. *It fails to direct breeders, who are looking for stock to improve their herds in particular points, where animals high in these points can be found.*—Were the judges to state in what particular points the prize and commended animals excel the others, an authoritative record of these points would be created, to which breeders would turn when in quest of stock possessed of certain points of particular excellence, and thus save themselves a great deal of trouble and expense in visiting the different herds to look for animals high in the qualities they desire to engraft on, or increase in their stock; while they would at the same time be put on their guard against any defects these prize animals might have, through their shortcomings, as well as their excellences, being noticed by the judges. If this record were once established, breeders would be enabled to see how even the far back progenitors of stock, which they were inclined to purchase, stood in regard to every point of any importance. The present system of judging gives no such information, and therefore fails in this most important respect.

4. *It fails to afford those who are anxious to acquire it, a knowledge of the excellences and defects of Stock, and therefore does little or nothing to advance this most important branch of Agriculture.*—If the judges of stock at the principal shows were to give the reasons for the decisions at which they arrive—as they ought to do—these reasons would be published with the lists of prizes in the daily papers the day after the stock were judged, and visitors, going round the stalls with the papers in their hands, would be able to see why one animal was placed before the other, and thus learn more in the course of *one day's* attendance at a show than they now do in *ten years* under the present system of judging. In this respect also, the existing system is a failure, and ought to be altered; for one of the principal objects of shows is the dissemination of information; and every endeavour should be made to render them thoroughly educational.

The fact is that our shows now scarcely confer one tithe of the benefit they ought to do, and public opinion is frequently misdirected, while not an exhibition passes but a great deal of dissatisfaction is caused to exhibitors and the public, both through the want of information from the judges and erroneous awards. As regards the educational element, again—the great object for which shows were established—these exhibitions are every whit as wanting as they were twenty years ago; and it surely cannot be the case, that every institution in the kingdom is to improve and progress, and agricultural exhibitions stand still. It is, no doubt, questionable whether the remedy

here proposed be the right one ; but its proposal, if entertained and discussed at all, must do good in calling attention to the matter ; and, if it does so, the object of the writer will be served.

II.—THE REMEDY—THE POINT SYSTEM.

1.—*Mode of its initiation.*—The remedy for all this would be to judge the stock by points ; and that mode of judging might be initiated by adopting some such course as the following :—

The opinion of breeders throughout the colonies should be taken, as to the points which should be adopted for the different sorts of stock and the relative values of these points. With this view the Councils and Committees of the leading Agricultural Societies in these colonies should prepare and print tentative award papers for the several breeds of stock in something like the form that will be afterwards given in this paper, and should send them round to the different Local Agricultural Associations for consideration and report by their members. In this way the opinion of every judge worth having would be obtained ; and when they were, the Reports of the different Local Associations could be gone through by the Councils and Committees of the principal Societies, and the points and their values fixed in accordance with these opinions. After that, again, a joint Committee might be appointed by the principal Societies, to consider the scales of points and their relative values thus fixed upon, and agree on a general scale for the colonies. Both correctness and uniformity would thus be secured, and there could be no cavilling at the points fixed upon, or the values given them, as they would be the result of the collective wisdom of all the best judges in all the colonies.

The course here recommended would take a little time and trouble, and would no doubt create considerable discussion as to what the points ought to be, and what values should be placed upon them ; but this would all do good, for there is no subject on which breeders and owners require more to obtain correct information than on this, nor one the discussion of which would tend more to the general improvement of stock and the development of their most valuable points. If the principal Societies would agree to this mode of judging, and some such course as that here suggested for initiating it were followed, the system might be carried into effect in the course of twelve months, and the labour could not possibly be better bestowed.

2. *The advantages of the point system are, among others, the following:—*

- (1.) With ordinarily competent judges, *it insures* correct and, of course, uniform awards.
- (2.) It affords the most ample information with respect to the exhibits and their points—the award papers forming exhaustive

and, at the same time, very concise reports as to their good and bad qualities.

- (3.) It is in a high degree educational, as the reasons are given for all the decisions, thereby affording those who attend the shows for the purpose of acquiring a correct knowledge of stock, the best possible opportunity of doing so.

To show that this system possesses the *first advantage* claimed for it—correct and uniform awards—and to illustrate the mode of carrying it out, we will suppose that a scale of points has been fixed upon in the manner suggested, for all the colonies, that award papers have been prepared like those given in Appendix A hereto, and that the judges have commenced their duties in a class of ten exhibits. The first thing they would do (as they could not be expected to take the points of all the animals in the class), would be to send back, say the six possessed of the least merit, to their stalls, including, of course, all those which were very defective in any one material quality or point, or in vigour or size, and draw up together in a line the four head left in the ring, which, for convenience sake, we will suppose are numbers 1 to 4, inclusive of their class. Then, instead of attempting to give one animal after the other the whole marks which they consider it should receive for the several points, the judges should take each of the different points, one after the other, see how the several animals in the class stand in regard to it, and allot the cattle their proper number of marks for the point. To make this more plain, we will suppose that the judges begin by examining the four animals in regard to the first group of points, "general style and carriage," "colour," and "bone," and that they find No. 3 the best in that group. They then settle among themselves how far that exhibit is from perfection, as regards the group of points, referred to, and allot it the proper number of marks in accordance with the authorized scale of points. They would then in the same manner agree as to the animal next best in this group, say exhibit No. 2, and allot it its proper number of points, bearing in mind the number given to exhibit No. 3; and so on till all the four exhibits received their marks for the *first* group of points. The same course would then be followed with regard to the *second* group, "hair and touch," "handle," and "evenness of flesh and fat;" and so on with all the groups in succession, until they were completed, when the numbers would be summed up, and the animals with the highest number of marks would, of course, be placed first.

In pointing the exhibits, the judges could arrange among themselves either that one of their number should take the lead throughout in calling the number of marks to be allotted to the different animals for the various groups, or they might lead in turn; or the system followed at Philadelphia could be adopted—each judge could act independently, put down his marks without referring to his fellow judges, and give in his award paper to the Exhibition Committee, who would

make up the awards in accordance with the marks appearing in these papers.

Working in this way, it is scarcely possible for the judges to make mistakes, for they would, as it were, be pointedly asked how the different exhibits relatively stood in regard to every point which an animal ought to possess; and any one can see that this would be of immense advantage in judging, in so far as it is not the ability to say when the attention is called to it, whether a point is good or bad, which constitutes the judge (for almost every one who knows anything of stock can do that); but it is the faculty of passing *the whole* of the points in review before the mind's eye which does so; and in proportion as this faculty is possessed in a greater or less degree by the judge, so is his award to be depended upon or questioned. The point system, as has been said, brings every point under review, and would therefore, with ordinarily competent judges, insure correct awards to an extent which cannot possibly be attained in any other way, and this especially with the points and their values fixed, as has been proposed, by the principal Agricultural Societies.

Where the entries are few, it is generally easy to give correct awards; but if they are numerous, and many of them of nearly equal merit, the animals must be taken to pieces and examined point by point, otherwise erroneous decisions are certain to be given; and surely it is better that this should be done systematically, in "black and white," than as it is at present mentally, if at all, "by rule of thumb." Some few judges are, perhaps, able to give correct decisions under such circumstances; but in most cases the judges, without going through the exhibits point by point, setting down the proper value of each point as possessed by the different animals, and summing up the numbers thus allotted to each animal, would be all abroad, and would fail, as they now frequently do, to give thoroughly correct awards; for not only would they overlook defects and excellences in the exhibits, but being bound by no authorised scale or value of points, they allow their prejudices with respect to certain breeds and points to lead them into error.

This is especially the case as regards the judging of the stock exhibited for the challenge cups, offered at the great summer shows, and the principal Christmas exhibitions of fat stock in England: and here again the point system would enable correct and uniform awards to be given, although the animals might be of three, four, or even five different breeds. To do this properly, however, the committees of these societies and associations would require to ascertain the difference made by dealers and butchers in purchasing fat stock of the different breeds on account of the superiority or otherwise of the meat, and the lightness or heaviness of the offal of one breed compared with the other, and agree to a fixed allowance for the possession of, or deficiency in these qualities,—the allowance to be represented by a certain number

of marks when animals of the different breeds meet in the ring. Thus in judging, while all the exhibits receive the marks to which they are fairly entitled—and those only—for the several points including “size” and “weight,” those which were superior in the meat and lightness of offal would, in addition to these marks, receive the proposed allowance for these superior qualities. If this were done, and the point system fully adopted, the judging of the different breeds of stock in the same class would become a comparatively easy and satisfactory matter, and the tedious, uncertain, and highly unsatisfactory work, which under the present mode of judging has now annually to be gone through, would be at an end—while the questions as to what breed of stock is the most profitable for the breeder and farmer would be in a fair way of being settled.

With correct awards there would of course be uniformity, and we should not then see the same animals change places, as they now frequently do, at the different shows.

The *second advantage*—the large amount of information which the point system affords—will be easily seen. In no other way can information be given with respect to the exhibits at a show, in such a full, concise, and practical shape as by the point system. In fact, the award papers are elaborate reports on each exhibit pointed, and show how near it comes to, or how far it is from, perfection in every point and quality an animal should possess. In any other way it would take the judges ten times the time and labour to give the same amount of information with respect to the different exhibits, which they can do in the award papers, and then it would not be of nearly the same value to breeders and the public. To turn the award papers and points to the best possible account, however, they should be analyzed, and the marks so placed in tabulated form as to show how all the animals stand with respect to each other in the different points. This has been done in Appendix B with the *pro forma* award paper given in Appendix A; and it can be seen at a glance, not only how the different animals in a class stand with respect to each other in the various points, but it could be so also with respect to exhibits in the different classes by carrying on the analysis. This would be very valuable and interesting to breeders, but especially to those who wished to improve their stock in any particular point, for by glancing at the analysis, they would at once see where they could obtain stock high in such a point, and apply accordingly; while, again, exhibitors would have their attention particularly directed to the points in which the animals were defective, and be thus led to purchase stock to remedy these defects.

Further, these award papers being permanent records, would be of great advantage to breeders in after years; for instead of getting, as they in most cases now do, a vague, doubtful, and imperfect account of the points and appearance of the progenitors of animals, which they are inclined to purchase on account of their excellence in some particular point, they would only have to turn to the proceedings of one or

other of the principal agricultural societies, and there learn, by a perusal of the award papers of their shows, as much with respect to the animals with which they wish to become acquainted, as if they actually saw and examined them.

Looking again at the *third advantage* claimed for the point system—that it is in a high degree educational—we find that the existing mode of judging is not for a moment to be compared to that system. At present the judges give no reasons for their awards, and merely decide which animals are the best; and if the uninitiated wish, as they always do, to know why one animal is preferred to another, they receive no information whatever from the judges, and can only guess at the excellences of the one and the defects of the other. Under the point system, however, we have, as has been already said, an elaborate report on each animal pointed, showing how nearly it approaches to or how far it is from perfection in the estimation of the judges in every quality. And although the most important object to be kept in view in making the arrangements for judging at shows is to select judges who will be capable of giving correct decisions, certainly the object next in importance ought to be to carry out the judging in such a way as to render the exhibition thoroughly educational, and to afford the greatest possible amount of information to breeders and the public with respect to the stock shown and their excellences and defects, thereby teaching the uninitiated, and educating the rising race of breeders. In this most important respect the advantage is wholly on the side of the point system.

3. *Objections to the point system.*—There are only *three* objections of any apparent weight, which have been brought forward against judging by points :—

- (1.) That very few of the judges would be capable of judging in that way.
- (2.) That even if they were, the system is too tedious and would occupy more time than could be spared.
- (3.) That judges would dislike to judge by points.

With respect to the *first objection*, it is alleged that, although there are many judges who are able to say with certainty whether an animal is good or bad, and which is the best in a class, yet they could not give the reasons for their decision, nor say in which points the one animal is superior to the others; and especially that they could not give the proper number of marks for the several points. Now this is a palpable mistake; for any one can see that no one is qualified to be a judge who cannot take an animal to pieces, *i.e.*, who does not know every point and quality an animal ought to possess; and that, if a person know these points and qualities, it is absurd to say that he could not, after a little practice, set down the relative values of the different points in the Award Paper, according to the scale fixed by the principal Agricultural Societies, and thus give the highest number of marks to

the best animal. Or, putting the matter in another shape, it is absurd to say that a person can form a correct estimate of some 40 or 50 points in a lump, and not be able to do so with respect to each point taken singly. It is granted that the judges would at first find some difficulty in allotting the proper number of marks for the various points of the different animals, but this would only be felt at the very commencement. If they were careful at the beginning to fix a fair standard of excellence for each point, and to allot the correct number of marks to the first animal, they would have no difficulty whatever in dealing fairly with all the exhibits brought before them, and giving thoroughly correct awards. It would of course in this, as in everything else, require a little practice on the part of the judges to get through their work expeditiously and accurately, but a very little—a few hours at the most—would enable them to do so. It is, however, scarcely necessary to argue this point, for we find that stock of all sorts are now judged by points on the Continent, in the United States,* and in some cases even in Great Britain, and that too under a system far more difficult to carry out than here suggested.

The *second objection* is that “there would not be time to judge the stock by points.” This objection is also more apparent than real; for it is only when new to the work that the judges would take longer to judge by the point system than by the present; and in the initiation of the proposed system two sets of judges might be appointed to each section, one set taking the males and the other the females. If there were any scarcity of judges, each set might consist of *two*, as a third man could, where the two judges in one set disagreed, be taken from the other. When, however, the judges had obtained a little experience in the new system, the two sets would not be necessary, as they would then get through the work as quickly under the point system as under the present. It is true that there may be a few classes in the show, where the exhibits are comparatively easily placed, and where the judges would, under the present system, get quickly over their work; but as a rule, at meetings like our Metropolitan Exhibition, the stock in most of the classes are so numerous, and so much on a par one with the other, that it takes the judges — if not for the first, at any rate for the second, third, and fourth places—a very considerable time, and no little discussion among themselves, to allot each animal its proper place. Long, therefore, before the judges could possibly discuss, as they now do, the merits of the five or six animals remaining in the leet, and agree as to their relative positions, they would, far more harmoniously, and not unfrequently more correctly, put each animal into its proper place by the point system. Even under that system a discussion might arise among the judges as to which of the animals was best in a particular point or group of points; but such a dis-

* See Scale of Shorthorn Points in Appendix E, used at the Philadelphia Exhibition of 1876.

discussion could not occupy a fiftieth part of the time that one on the whole animal would do (when, as it now is, the three judges can argue round and round among themselves on the whole 40 points), and if raised at all, would be decided at a glance, confined as the discussion must be to a single portion, and a small one of the animal. When judges are once accustomed to the system and go steadily at their work, they would easily be able to point the four or five animals in each class in half an hour, or in three-quarters of an hour at most, and that, even if there were only one set of judges, would occupy them no more than six hours at the very outside. But supposing that each class, on an average, took as much as an hour (which it would never do), and that there was only one set of judges, they would be occupied for seven or eight hours ; and even that could be given, as they could commence at eight in the morning and work till four in the afternoon, and although this would be a very long day's work, there are very few of the judges who would be unwilling to undertake it. There is, however, no necessity for thus begging the question, for the judging by points, with even a single set of judges, would never occupy anything like the time here supposed, and, if it did, the judges need not be over-taxed in the least, as a second set could be easily appointed for the class.

With regard to the *third objection*—that the judges would dislike to judge by points. There are no doubt a good many first-class judges who would *at first*, perhaps, object to judge by points. They would do so for several reasons. Some of them, and by far the larger number, would decline because they disliked to submit their decisions to the minute criticism which they imagine judging by points would arouse. Some again—and they are comparatively few—would object on account of the trouble the point system would entail. And a very few would do so because they think that they would, by this mode of judging, give too much information, and make others as good judges as themselves.

With regard to the *first* of this class of objections, there is no doubt whatever but a very little experience would lead judges to alter their opinions. This is the experience of the writer. He has heard judges who were most reluctant to commence judging by points, and who had all but declined to act, declare, when they had finished their work, that they liked judging in that way very much, and would never do so in any other, if they had their choice. In fact, although the writer has seen a good deal of judging by points, he has never met with a good judge who tried this system and did not approve of it. The reason is plain. A good judge would never make a mistake except by overlooking some point or quality which he ought to have observed. This he cannot possibly do in judging by points : for, as has been already noticed, he is point blank asked how the different animals stand in every point and quality they possess ; and as no point or quality can in this way escape his notice, he acquires a confidence in himself under this mode of judging which he cannot feel under any other, and is

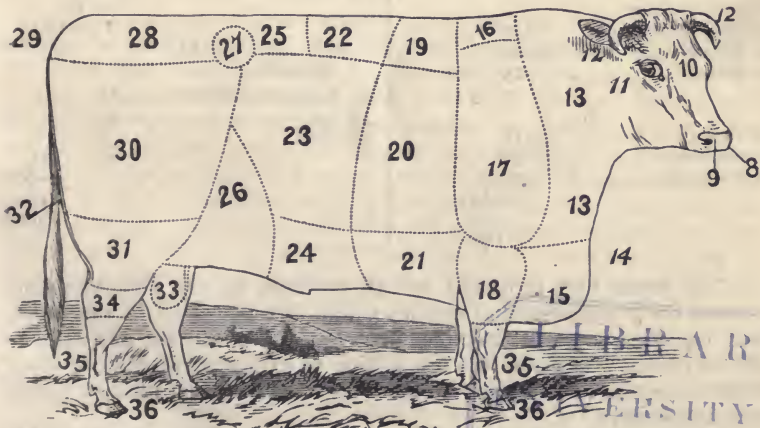
thoroughly regardless of criticism, as he feels that he can scarcely make the slightest mistake.

As to the *second class of objections*, there are very few judges who, for the benefit of breeders and the society, would not willingly take the trouble and bestow the time required to judge by points, even although it should be found to be a very tedious and troublesome affair. It is, however, neither; for the judges would, after a little practice, quickly agree as to the number of marks to be allotted to the different exhibits, and the steward or member in attendance would enter the numbers in the award paper for them, along with any remarks they may make.

There are so very few judges who would decline for the *third and last reason* that their services can easily be dispensed with, and that objection therefore falls to the ground.

III.—SCALE OF POINTS FOR SHORTHORNS.

The plate here given is a representation of a Short Horn Bull with the points marked upon it so far as they can be so; and their names and values will be ascertained by referring to the appended Scale, the aggregate number of which is taken at 1000.



LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

SCALE AND VALUES OF POINTS.

I. SIZE.			
f.			
1	Size	30	
II. QUALITY.			
2.			
<i>General Quality.</i>			
2	General Style, Carriage, and vigour	60	
3	Bone	20	
4	Colour	10	
		-90	
3.			
3	Hair	30	
6	Handle	60	
7	Evenness of Flesh and Fat	40	
		-130	
		-220	
<i>Head.</i>			
4.			
8	Muzzle	10	
9	Nostril	5	
		-15	
5.			
10	Forehead and Face	30	
11	Eye	20	
12	Horn and Far	25	
		-75	
		-90	
		-310	
III. FORM.			
6.			
<i>Fore-quarter.</i>			
13	Neck and Throat	40	
14	Breast	20	
15	Brisket	25	
		-85	
7.			
16	Crops	15	
17	Shoulder	30	
18	Fore-arm	10	
		-55	
		140	
		8.	140 340
19	Chine	55	
20	Fore-ribs	40	
21	Fore-flank	35	
		-130	
		-270	
		<i>Middle.</i>	9.
22	Back	25	
23	Back-ribs	40	
24	Belly	15	
		-80	
		10.	
25	Loin	45	
26	Flank	45	
		-90	
		-170	
		11.	
<i>Hind-quarter.</i>			
27	Hip or Hook	15	
28	Rumps	50	
29	Tail and Set on	25	
		-90	
		12.	
30	Quarter	30	
31	Thigh	20	
		-50	
		13.	
32	Twist	40	
33	Testes	10	
		-50	
		-190	
		14.	
<i>Legs, &c.</i>			
34	Knee and Gambiil	15	
35	Leg	10	
36	Hoof	5	
		-	
		30	
		-660	
		1000	

The points here proposed are all positive, as low positive points indicate the position of an inferior exhibit just as well as, if not better than, negative; while it simplifies matters to have only the one description of points. Besides, it is less galling to exhibitors of inferior stock to have the position of their animals indicated by low positive points than by negative.

For convenience in dealing with the points, and in order to enable stock-owners and breeders to know the relative position of the various exhibits from the number of marks given them by the judges, the highest possible aggregate number of points attainable should be fixed

by the scale at either 100 or 1000; and there is no doubt but the latter would be the preferable aggregate, in order that the judges might have ample scope to mark the differences which exist in the same points in the different animals in a class. Where the 100 aggregate is used, a good many of the points must be as low as 3, 2, and even 1; and it can easily be seen that where the marks or values of the same points are to be given to all the exhibits in a leet, and there is only the range of a single number, or at most of two or three, it would be impossible where there are five or six in the leet to give each exhibit the correct number of marks which it deserves, for it would be found in practice that no two of them are exactly the same in any one point. Besides, the less judges are cramped in marking differences in the various points of the different exhibits, the more easily and correctly will their work be performed. It makes no difference to the judges whether the aggregate be 100 or 1000, as the one aggregate, except in the cases mentioned, is as easily worked as the other; but they will with the latter number require to keep in view the large numbers they are dealing with, and in marking the differences between the various exhibits make these differences sufficiently wide.

In the way in which the foregoing scale has been drawn up, the judging might either be carried out—(1st), by the single points, of which there are 36, at the values given in the first column; or (2nd), by the groups, of which there are 14, at the values summed up and given in the second column; or (3rd), by the seven subdivisions of "Size," "General Quality," "Head," "Fore-quarter," "Middle," "Hind-quarter," and "Legs," &c., at the values appearing in the third column.

Of the three ways here mentioned, the *first*, the single point system would, for breeding stock, not only be the simplest, but also that by which the awards would be the most correct and afford the greatest amount of information; for instead of having to come to a decision, as they would have to do in judging by groups with regard to two or three different points all differing to some extent in the different animals in the class, and thereby causing discussion and delay—the judges working under the single points, would have to deal with *one* point at a time; and having only the one question to decide, would be able to give their awards rapidly and correctly. In fact, judging by the single points is just carrying out the wise old "saw" of doing only one thing at a time—the advantages of which are so well illustrated in the process of pin-making.

The only objection worth considering, which has been taken to this mode of pointing, is that it would occupy too much time to go through all the points in detail. Now, it may be that the judging would be more quickly carried out by taking the points in groups, and more quickly still as they have been arranged in subdivisions; but cases would frequently arise under both these modes of pointing, where the judges would differ as to the number of marks to be allotted to a group or subdivision, and

Here the disagreement is supposed to occur in the Sub-division of "General Quality." Under the point system a very few minutes is quite sufficient to settle the matter, for when the points are taken separately, the question as to which animal is best in the point under consideration is no sooner raised than it is decided—it being next to impossible for any disagreement to continue with respect to a single point, and when the values of the several points in the Sub-division are set down in the Award Paper for the four or five different animals in the class, and the totals summed up, the thing is settled, and the disagreement at an end.

IV.—DESCRIPTION OF POINTS.

The Points of a Shorthorn Bull may be described under the three divisions of "Size," "Quality," and "Form," and as follows:—

I. SIZE.

- (1.) *Size*.—The preferable size is a medium one approaching to large, as extra large animals are, as a rule, less hardy, and require proportionately more and better food. Value 30 marks.

II.—QUALITY.

Quality may be described as certain external properties, which may be seen and felt, indicative of high breeding, a disposition to early maturity, and of having the frame—especially in the prime parts—covered with valuable meat, and the fat evenly distributed throughout the whole carcass.

Of *Quality* there are two subdivisions: 1 *General Quality*, and 2 *Head*; while in the former subdivision there are 6 points, namely:—

- (2.) *General Style, Carriage, and Vigour*.—General style and carriage is that indescribable beauty and elegance of form, character, and carriage in an animal, which is seen at a glance, and which denotes purity of blood and high breeding; value, 40 marks. *Vigour* is indicated by width of forehead, well-developed neck and horns, roundness and capacity of barrel, and general robust and muscular appearance; value, 20 marks.
- (3.) The *Bone*, as shewn in that of the leg under the knee, should be fine, but not so fine as to indicate weakness of constitution. Coarseness of bone is incompatible with "Quality." The reason for this is plain. In coarse, large-boned animals, a great proportion of the nutriment in the food goes to making and supporting bone, which in the finer-boned beast makes meat. Value, 20 marks.

- (4.) The *Colour* should be any variety of red and white, as roan, or red with white, or altogether white. The richer the colour the better, but red inclining to black, or light red inclining to yellow, is objectionable, as well as red and white spotted. Value, 10 marks.
- (5.) The *Hair* should be fine, long, wavy, silky, and abundant, with soft mossy undergrowth. Value, 30 marks.
- (6.) The *Handle, i.e., Touch and Handle*. The position of an exhibit with respect to *Touch* is ascertained by a slow, comparatively light, but firm pressure with the points of the fingers on the different parts of the animal, especially along the chine, back, ribs, loin, and rump, and on the hip or hookbones; and, if it be in fair condition and stands well in this point, the feeling under the fingers will be soft and yielding, which indicates the existence of plenty of fat between the skin and flesh, and aptitude to fatten. The flesh itself should be yielding and elastic, especially on the ribs, points of the rump, and at the setting on of the tail. In *Handling*, the thickness and elasticity of the skin are to be ascertained. It should be of medium thickness approaching to thin, but not so thin as to indicate that the animal can undergo no hardship; neither should it be loose, but movable, mellow, soft, yielding, and elastic. Value, of touch and handle, 60 marks.
- (7.) *Evenness of Flesh and Fat*.—The meat should be evenly, fairly, and deeply laid on over the whole carcase, especially on the prime parts, and the fat should be fairly distributed throughout the whole. Patchiness on the shoulder, ribs, loin, or rump—especially on the last—is a decided fault in young stock; for the fat, instead of being evenly distributed throughout the carcase, as indicated by the marbled appearance of first-class meat, is nearly all collected at the patchy parts. Value, 40 marks.

In *Head*—the second subdivision of *Quality*—there are seven points, which may be described as follows:—

- (8.) The *Muzzle* should be moderately small. The colour should be cream, orange, or light drab, but never smoky or black, which indicates inferiority of blood. Value, 10 marks.
- (9.) The *Nostril* should be wide, high, and open. Value, 5 marks.
- (10.) The *Forehead and Face*.—The *Forehead* should be short and broad, denoting vigour, while in the cow it should be longer and narrower. The *Face* should be comparatively short, lean of flesh, and somewhat dished or concave. Value together, 30 marks.
- (11.) The *Eye* should be prominent, bright, mild, lively, and trustful; and the *Expression* should be cheerful, open, gentle, and contented. Value, 20 marks.

- (12.) The *Horn and Ear*. The Horn should be comparatively short, moderately thick, well-shaped, flattish and waxy, not clean and white, nor blackened, except at the very tips. It should incline outwards and not much upwards. Value, 20 marks. The *Ear* should be large, thin, yellowish inside, erect, lively in action, and hairy. Value, 5 marks.

III.—FORM.

Form may be described as symmetry and utility of carcase—*i.e.*, a handsome, well-developed, healthy frame, with fulness and largeness in all the prime parts, and smallness in the inferior and offal.

Of *Form* again there are four sub-divisions—1 fore-quarter, 2 middle, 3 hind-quarter, and 4 legs, &c.; and in the first of these sub-divisions, *fore-quarter*, there are 9 points, namely :—

- (13.) The *Neck and Throat*.—The *neck* should be clean, somewhat long and arching (bull-necked), which shows strength and masculine vigour, a most essential point; but the rise of the arch of the neck should never extend to the shoulders, and the neck should be fine at the setting on of the head. The neck-vein ought to be well developed, and should run full and evenly into the shoulder. The *throat* should be fine, clean, and free from superfluous skin. Value, 40 marks.
- (14.) The *Breast*.—The space between the fore legs, viewed in front, should be wide, full, and swelling, indicating thickness through the heart and capacity of chest. Value, 20 marks.
- (15.) The *Brisket* should be full, deep, broad, and projecting forward in front of the leg, and downwards nearly to the knee. There should be no dewlap, beyond a slight, pendulous thread. Although a deep brisket is not an absolute guarantee of a deep chest, the two generally go together. A deep brisket is not always to be met with in well-shaped cattle, but it is indicative of a propensity to fatten. Value, 25 marks.
- (16.) The *Crops*—the top of the shoulder—should be full and well covered with flesh, but not too wide. If they are very thick, straight, and open the animal will never have good action. Value, 15 marks.
- (17.) The *Shoulder* should be well developed and covered with muscle from its point to the crops. The shoulder-blade should be fairly laid back to insure action and a good fore-flank. A too upright shoulder invariably entails a protuberant, bare shoulder-point and meagre fore-flank—both bad faults. Value, 30 marks.
- (18.) The *Forearm* should be broad, large, straight, and muscular. Value, 5 marks.

- (19.) The *Chine*—the space between the crops and back—should be round, and so full as to leave no hollow behind the shoulder. “Nothing can compensate for a deficiency in this respect. It takes away substance from one of the very prime parts.” On the top the chine should be on a level with, and run well into, the back. Value, 55 marks.
- (20.) The *Fore-ribs* should be round (hooped), deep and capacious throughout, running down wide and deep to give plenty of room for the heart and lungs. They should especially stand well out behind the shoulder. A bull with bad fore-ribs and a narrow, contracted chest,—hollow behind the shoulder,—should be set aside, whatever other good qualities he may possess. “There must be ample room for the heart to beat and the lungs to play, otherwise sufficient blood for the purposes of nutriment and strength will not be circulated, nor will it undergo the vital change which is essential to the proper discharge of every function.” Deficient in this respect he is literally a “bad-hearted” animal, and his stock will lack vigour of constitution, and be liable to succumb to disease. Value, 40 marks.
- (21.) The *Fore-flank* should be deep, and well-developed, and should run full and evenly into the shoulder. Value, 35 marks.

In the second sub-division of *Form—Middle*—there are 5 points, which may be described as follows:—

- (22.) The *Back* should be straight and broad, and on the same level as the chine and loin. It should be well covered with flesh, and should run full and wide into the loin. Value, 25 marks.
- (23.) The *Back-ribs* should spring roundly in an arch from the back, and run well back towards the hind-quarters, so as to leave little space between the ribs and the hips or hooks, *i.e.*—well ribbed home (a most essential point), while the two or three last ribs should be broad, arching, and well let down. Value, 40 marks.
- (24.) The *Belly* should neither be tucked up, nor too low in the middle, that is, pot-bellied, but roomy and fairly let down, giving space for a capacious paunch. There should be room for ample materials to keep up the necessary supply of blood. Value, 15 marks.
- (25.) The *Loin* should be full, long, level, broad, and well covered with flesh. When properly developed, it should appear to extend far along the back. It is a prime part of the carcass, besides giving additional strength to the animal; and in moderately fat animals at least, it is one of the points by which a purchaser is guided in judging as to their condition. Value, 45 marks.
- (26.) The *Flank* should be full, swelling, low, and deep. This is, too, one of the chief points noticed by the buyer in judging as to

the condition of cattle, and ought, for this and other reasons, to be cultivated. Value, 45 marks.

In the third subdivision of *Form*—the *Hind-quarter*—there are seven points, which may be described as follows :—

- (27.) The *Hip* or *Hook*—the width measuring from the crown of one hip bone to that of the other—should be comparatively wide, but not protruding, nor too large. It should be on a level with the Loin and Rump. The hip bones should be well covered, and feel comparatively soft to the touch. Value, 15 marks.
- (28.) The *Rumps*—the length from the crown of the hip to the point of the true rump, and the width across behind from point to point—should be long and wide, square, and level on the top, with the space between the hip and the tail and the points of the rumps well filled up with flesh and fat, without patchiness or gaudiness. A wide, long level, well filled-up rump, and a good handle at the tail and haunch, are sure indications that the animal is of the right sort ; and these points are also of importance through the meat on them being all of the primest quality. Value, 50 marks.
- (29.) The *Tail and Set on*.—The Tail should be set symmetrically on a level with the rump, loin, and back. It should be strong and broad at the root, but rapidly tapering to fine and round at the brush. It should, when not raised, fit neatly in between the points of the rump bones. It should neither rise at the root, with a cock or curve, above the level of the rump, nor should it run far up the rump, nor droop, *i.e.*, it should be set square on. Value, 25 marks.
- (30.) The *Quarter*—the length and width below the rump and above the thigh—should be wide, level, and square. It should come down straight and full to the thigh, but it should not be lairy nor rounded like that of a horse, which is a sure sign of coarseness. Value, 30 marks.
- (31.) The *Thigh* should be broad, strong, short, and well developed. Value, 20 marks.
- (32.) The *Twist*—the filling up between the thighs—should be full broad, well filled, making the thighs meet low down. Value, 40 marks.
- (33.) The *Testes* should be well developed. Value, 10 marks.

In the fourth subdivision of *Form, Legs, &c.*, there are 3 points which may be described as follows :—

- (34.) The *Knee* and *Gambriel*.—The (fore) *Knee* should be broad in front, clean, and well developed. The *gambriel* (or hock) should be long, broad, clean, muscular, and nearly straight to the ground. Value of both, 15 marks.

- (35.) The *Leg* should be short, straight, wide set, clean, and well proportioned; and under the Knee and Gambrel it should be moderately fine and sinewy. Value, 10 marks.
- (36.) The *Hoof* should be clean, short, and well proportioned. Value, 5 marks.

V.—IMPEDIMENTS TO ADOPTION OF POINT SYSTEM AND THEIR REMOVAL.

Although a clear and unassailable case is here made out in favour of the point system, there are but too good grounds for believing that considerable delay may still occur in its initiation, as there are many, though easily removable, impediments in the way of its adoption by the principal agricultural societies. We will here therefore briefly notice some of the more prominent of these impediments, and show how they can be removed. They are,

- (1). *The novelty of the system.*—The effect of this impediment on all classes of the community, and especially on those interested in the alterations which the proposed system would entail, in delaying the introduction of improvements, is too well known to be for a moment questioned. It is, however, one that will speedily disappear with the discussion of the subject, and its advocates will require to see that its various advantages are kept continually and prominently before stockowners and the public.
- (2). *Its apparent intricacy.*—Looking at the array of figures and the minuteness with which the judging is gone into, the point system, at first sight, appears complicated and difficult, and is certain to frighten all those breeders and judges—and they are the majority—who look but superficially into such matters. The intricacy, however, to a judge, is only apparent; and the merest trial of the point system on a few head of his own or his neighbour's cattle would soon convince him that it is not only easily understood, but can be readily and correctly applied.
- (3). *The dislike on the part of thorough judges to go into detail.*—A first-class judge, who very naturally prides himself on the quickness with which he can discern the good and bad qualities of an animal, and who does so at a glance, does not like to be obliged to go minutely over the last leet of exhibits in a class, and judge point by point. He would be apt to think that he was, in this way, being sent back to the very ABC of his calling, and it is only natural that he should at first object to judge in any such fashion. When, however, he is made to understand the extent of the benefits he would confer on stockowners and the society requiring his services by judging in this way, there is not the least doubt but that, in nine cases out of ten, he would readily consent to do so.

- (4). *The natural disinclination on the part of breeders and judges to study and master the principles and details of the system.*—The failing here noticed is common to the members of every calling or profession, but especially so to owners and breeders, and this, no doubt, arises from the fact that their turn of mind is far more practical than theoretical. The same causes as would lead to removal of impediment No. 3, would tend to the removal of this ; and
- (5). *The want of information with respect to the advantages of the system.*—These advantages have not as yet been so fully brought under the notice of stockowners and judges as they ought to have been. If one tithe of the advantages which are claimed for this system can be secured, and there is no doubt but that they can all be so—it is impossible to conceive that the impediments which now exist to its introduction can continue, for our judges are too large-minded, and have the good of the class to which they belong too much at heart to allow their prejudices—and the objections here noticed are little else—or even their own loss of time or inconvenience to stand in the way of such a valuable improvement in the present mode of judging.

Although these impediments to the introduction of the point system exist, it will be seen from what has been said that they can one and all be easily overcome. If, therefore, the point system be practicable, and that has been fully established by actual experience in almost every country under the sun, the objections which have been noticed as now existing among breeders and judges to that system, ought not for a single moment to stand in the way of its adoption by the principal agricultural societies: For, without desiring to detract in the least from the acknowledged skill and ability of the judges at our Exhibitions and principal shows, who would for such reasons as those now given object to judge by points, and fully acknowledging the pains and time they bestow in their endeavours to do equal justice to all the exhibitors, we must bear in mind that there are many things judges would do, and many they would not do, if they were not bound by the regulations of the societies for which they are acting, and that the chief consideration is not what they would like, but what is practicable and what would be for the advantage of stockowners and these societies. Looking, therefore, at the question as to the best mode of judging in this light, it is plain that that of judging by points is one of those things, and that as the point system would be highly advantageous in these respects, it ought to be adopted, although even a majority of the judges might at first prefer to judge as they do at present.

If this course were taken by the principal agricultural societies, the judges would soon master the details of the system; and when once they did so, there cannot be a doubt but that they would prefer that mode of judging to any other.

VI.—STANDARD OF POINTS AND VALUES.

An authoritative scale of points for guidance of judges and use of agricultural colleges.—If, however, it should so happen that the principal agricultural societies resolve in the meantime not to adopt this system, they should at any rate, if they are to aid at all in promoting the acquirement of a more general and sounder knowledge of the principal points of stock and their relative values, send out as here proposed tentative scales of points to the local agricultural associations for consideration and discussion by the members of these associations, with the view of fixing a general scale of points and values for all the colonies. The discussions that would follow on the scale thus submitted would tend to the acquirement of much sounder views than now exist on those most important subjects; and, when a general and authoritative scale was agreed to, copies of it should be placed in the hands of the judges before they commence their work, with instructions that, although they were not required to judge by points, they should make their awards in accordance with the points and values set forth in these scales. In this way correct and uniform awards would be secured to a very much greater extent than they now are.

Besides the benefits already noticed as arising from the adoption of a fixed and authoritative scale of points, another most important advantage would accrue. These scales of points and values would be received by all agricultural schools and colleges as authoritative statements, and would be taught as such to scholars and students. In this way the principal agricultural societies would furnish most valuable materials for the use of these schools and colleges to be turned by them to profitable account, and would thus carry out one of the most important objects for which they were formed.

VII.—MEASUREMENTS OF STOCK EXHIBITED.

1. *Three measurements to be taken by stewards and handed to judges.*—The present mode of judging might be improved in another respect.

A few of the more important measurements of the animals might be taken by the stewards or by some persons appointed by the Council—say by the judges of condition hereafter proposed to be appointed—previous to the stock being brought into the ring; and the measurements given to the judges, along with the usual particulars as to the age, food, &c., of the exhibits. This suggestion is made on the ground that, as these measurements can, by using the tape, be ascertained with certainty, they ought to be treated as questions of fact, and not left to

the opinions of the judges. It can easily be seen that these measurements would be of great assistance to the judges, and save them a great deal of time, whether the judging be carried out by points or not; for judges are almost certain to differ as to the height, length, or girth of many of the animals, and not unfrequently make mistakes with respect to them, which the use of the tape would enable them to avoid. The measurements which it is proposed to take are the following:—

- (1) The animal's height, measuring from the ground to the top of its crops.
- (2) The length from the crown of the shoulder-blade to the hindermost part of the rump; gaudiness, of course, being omitted.
- (3) The girth at the heart.

It would not occupy much time to make these measurements; and, as the owners would be aware that they would be taken, they would be careful to measure their animals before they left home. They would thus be in a position to check the stewards, and bring the matter before the committee, should any mistake occur.

Although, however, these measurements would be of very great assistance to the judges, there would still be plenty of scope for the exercise of their knowledge and skill; and it would, of course, be distinctly understood that the taking of them in no way interfered with the legitimate powers of the judges.

2. *Additional measurements of first prize stock to be taken and recorded.*

—Whether the stock are judged by points or not, it would be very useful as well as interesting, if, besides the foregoing measurements, the following additional ones of all the first-prize animals were also taken and recorded, namely—

- (4) The length from the pole to the crown of the shoulder-blade.
- (5) The length from the point of the shoulder bone to the hindermost part of the thigh.
- (6) The width of breast, measuring from one shoulder point to the other.
- (7) The girth at the flank.
- (8) The width of the hips or huckles, measuring from the crown of one huckle to that of the other.
- (9) The length of quarter, measuring from the crown of the huckle to the true point of the rump.
- (10) The girth of the forearm.
- (11) The girth of the leg immediately above the pastern.

Further, if the judging of stock is not to be carried out by points, the judges of the principal shows should be asked to give short general descriptions of the first prize animals, for the purpose of their being placed on record along with these measurements.

VIII.—THE OVER-FEEDING OF BREEDING STOCK.

1. *The defect in the existing regulations.*—There is another defect, and a most serious one, in the present mode of judging, or rather, perhaps, more properly speaking, in the conduct of shows, which calls loudly for a remedy. I allude to the all but useless regulations now annually promulgated by the principal agricultural societies for preventing the shewing of overfed breeding stock, and the barefaced way in which these regulations are allowed to be evaded. It is notorious that, for years back, breeding stock have been exhibited at all the principal shows, in high enough condition for stock competing in the fat cattle classes, and that they are brought out in this unnatural state at the risk of rendering them unfit to breed, and to the ruin of their constitutions and that of their progeny; and this, too, when the breeder in many cases is but poorly able to stand the cost and expense of bringing the animals out in that unnatural condition. The over-feeding of breeding stock has become a serious national evil, and ought to be put down at all costs; for the injury is not confined to the stock of those who are inclined and well able to follow this ruinous practice, but it is, so to speak, highly infectious, and one that, if followed by only a few breeders, must be adopted by all who wish to exhibit at our great national shows. Indeed, hundreds of owners, although they are well aware that they are running very great risk of destroying the health and vigour of their breeding stock, deliberately overfeed them till they are in high condition, even for the shambles, knowing, as they do, that their herd would never obtain a name unless their stock are prize-takers, and that they must be overfed before they stand a chance in the show-yard. In other words, that if they are to make and maintain a name as breeders, they must, although they can but ill afford the expense, overfeed and destroy the vigour and stamina of their breeding stock, or give up keeping pure-bred stock altogether. There is no doubt whatever but that the majority of the ills to which the shorthorn is now so notoriously subject is either directly or indirectly caused by the over-feeding of breeding stock for exhibition at our national shows.

2. *The remedy.*—As, therefore, the steps hitherto taken by the principal agricultural societies have proved ineffectual to put down this crying evil, it is high time that some other means should be tried; and it is recommended that, instead of leaving it to the judges of the stock, as at present, to set aside those animals, shown in the breeding classes, which they consider too highly fed for breeding—and which in practice they never now do—three duly qualified judges of condition should be specially appointed, with absolute power to go through the breeding classes at the show, previous to the regular judges going to work and unhesitatingly disqualify every animal which they consider to be in too high condition to breed healthy stock.

It may be that, under such a system, an injury might, at first at

least, occasionally be done a breeder through some of his best stock, which are naturally high in condition, and always fat, being thrown out, but this would very seldom happen, and after a time, these judges of condition would have quite as little difficulty in arriving at sound decisions as to whether animals entered in the breeding classes were or were not overfed, as the ordinary judges now have in placing the animals in their classes in the positions to which they are entitled; for a judge of fat stock can, by handling a beast, tell at once in what stage of fattening it is; and there are many of our breeders thorough judges in this respect. But, supposing that an occasional mistake were to occur, and an injustice now and then be done, the evil arising in this way is not worth consideration, compared with the benefit which the proposed arrangement would be certain to confer, not only on the breeder, but on the nation at large; for there is no doubt but the evil, to which notice is here called, is a very serious national one.

APPENDIX C.—AWARD PAPER.
SECTION II, CLASS —. SHORTHORN.

Class.	No.	Age.			Measurement.						Size.		Quality.		Form.				Total.	Award
					Height.		Length.		Girth.		Vigour and size.	General.	Head.	Fore-quarter.	Middle.	Hind-quarter.	Legs, &c.			
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	30	220	90								270		

APPENDIX D.—AWARD PAPER.

SECTION II, CATTLE. CLASS —. FAT CATTLE (SHORTHORNS).

Class.	No.	Age.			Measurement.						Weight.		Quality.		Form.				Size, &c.		
					How fed.	Height.		Length.		Girth.		Live Weight.		General.	Head.	Fore-quarter.	Middle.	Hind-quarter.	Legs, &c.	Size and Weight.	
		Ft.	In.	Ft.		In.	Ft.	In.	Cwt.	qr.	lbs	220	80								200

APPENDIX E.

SCALE of points used at International Exhibition, Philadelphia, in judging Cattle.

POINTS.	SHORTHORN.	HEREFORD.	DEVON.
	Head	30	30
Nose	0	0	40
Face	20	20	0
Eye	20	20	40
Ear	0	10	20
Horn	20	20	20
Neck	20	20	20
Chest	140	140*	140
Brisket	50	40	40
Shoulder	40	30	40
Crops	80	30	30
Back, Loins, and Hips	80	80	90
Rumps	50	40	50
Pelvis	20	30	20
Twist	30	50	30
Quarters	50	60	60
Carcass	40	30	20
Flanks	30	30	30
Legs	20	30	50
Plates	30	30	0
Tail	20	20	10
Colour	0	10	10
Carriage	20	30	30
Quality	150	150	150
Coat or Hair	20	30	10
Udder	20	20	10
	1000	1000	1000

NOTED FOR BLACK SILKS.

FAMILY MOURNING

Dress and Mantle Making in all its
Branches.

E. WAY, 261 PITT STREET.

IMPORTER

OF

MILLINERY & FANCY GOODS.

E. WAY, 263 PITT STREET.

MANUFACTURER

OF

UNDERCLOTHING AND BABY LINEN.

E. WAY, 265 PITT STREET.

IMPORTER

OF

EVERY ARTICLE IN DRAPERY

E. WAY, 267 PITT STREET.

POTTIE'S

Scottish Highland Oils

are unquestionably

THE GREAT REMEDIAL AGENTS OF THIS AGE.

No remedy yet known possesses the power of curing so many diseases, and it has received the patronage of the highest families in Australia. It has removed diseases of years standing, after the unhappy sufferers have undergone a martyrdom of suffering, and often, I may add, of strong remedial treatment also. Now the success of this remedy has been demonstrated everywhere—from the palace to the shepherd's hut, from the lady of noble and philanthropic life to the poor and decrepit cripple. Its praises are sung in nearly every home in Australia, and it is being sent to suffering friends in America, Asia, the Continent of Europe, and Britain. Diseases of 5, 8, 10, 16, 20, 23, and 26 years' standing, yield to its power, so that men given up as incurable have returned to their duties in daily life, and are restored to the bosom of their families. After such success, we are those who ask suffering to give it a fair trial, and those who have used it, and are not cured, to *persevere* in its use, the only way to effect a permanent cure in long standing cases of disease.

A gentleman has informed me that pure bred animals which have to race and do fast work are greatly benefitted by the daily use of

Pottie's Scottish Highland Oil

on the joints.

LIST

OF OTHER

REMEDIES FOR THE LOWER ANIMALS.

Scottish Highland Oil, Glencairn Oils, Black Oils, Australian Embrocation, Green Healing Lotion, Black Healing Lotion, Empress Healing Powder.

All these Oils, Lotions, and Embrocations, are also good for human use.

Gripe or Colic Drench, Tonic Drink, Cattle and Sheep Drench—Nos. 1 and 2, Cattle and Sheep Medicine—No. 3, Derby Condition Powders, Worm Powders, Mange Powders, Alterative Urine, Physic Ball, Worm Ball, Urine Ball, Condition Powders, Golden Blister, Hoof Ointment, Sitfast, Inoculating Virus—with tapes, Needles for Virus, Condimental Food, Sheep Tonic Food, Cattle and Sheep Lick Blocks.

THIS BOOK IS DUE ON THE LAST DATE
STAMPED BELOW

F.

O.,

OCT 27 1914
JUL 16 1917

IR

S,

SEP 9 1920

42

DEC 6 1920

Have constar
Colonial-mad
Mining, Man

atal, and
cultural,
Garden,

JAN 25 1921

Ploughs, Har

s, Horse

DAI

FFR 24 1921

STATION

FION.

GALVANIZ

NGS.

30m-6, '14

DOMESTIC AND FURNISHING IRONMONGERY.

The most extensive choice in the colonies always on view of

Bedsteads, Baths, Stoves, Cutlery, and Articles for Dining, Tea, and
Breakfast Tables.

F. LASSETTER & CO.,

421 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY.

SF 115
D7

