Editorially

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EDITORIALLY

With this issue the Veterinary Student inaugurates a series of covers depicting the breed ideal of each of several of the main economic livestock breeds of America. Of course, the beauty of these outstanding individuals will delight anyone who spends his time in close association with animals. However, our purpose is to give each of us a clear and refreshed mental image of the standard of perfection of each breed.

Too long we have seen purebred farms alongside of those using unimproved grade stock. Unfortunately, many of these purebred farms also raise animals that are not worthy of use for the propagation of more purebreds or for the improvement of inferior stock. An awareness on the part of purchasers and their advisers of the desired types would prevent the sale of this undesirable breeding stock.

During the war any animal was valuable and commanded a fair price for slaughter at a time when quantity was all important and quality was all but forgotten. But it is also true that the farmer raising unimproved animals was not getting as large a return for his time, effort and capital as he was capable of getting. Animals of a poor type gain slower, make less gain on an equal amount of feed and when in equivalent condition bring less per pound than do modern meat type animals. There is less return from marketable products when there are fewer calves, eggs, pounds of wool and gallons of milk produced because of lack of inherited ability on the part of the animals. This is true of any breed. Now that the war is over there will be a return of competition and undoubtedly a price fall in some degree as supplies reach the demand. No longer will the possession of livestock and feed insure enough return to provide a living for a farm family. Those who have reached only a fair income and standard of living will again drop to a subsistence level. To prevent this there is need for a greatly increased use of superior breeding stock for the improvement of the average farm's livestock.

Of course, it is not the veterinarian's place to preach. But, inescapably, he will be asked for advice on herd problems, and his opinion on the worth of new sires will be desired. Since advice is a large part of his stock in trade the veterinarian will want to have it at hand for all livestock problems, not just those appertaining directly to disease. It is therefore hoped that the series of pictures will be a help and will serve as reminders of the ideal stock progressive farmers everywhere should strive for.

The cover illustration is of Bocaldo Rupert 31st, owned by W. A. Delaney's Lazy D Ranch, Ada, Oklahoma. It is an excellent example of the type head Hereford breeders are striving for because of the feeders' demand for breadth and shortness. The extreme masculinity makes it desirable for a breeding herd. The picture is used through the courtesy of Dudley Young, the photographer.

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