

even the fleeces of half-bred animals are valuable, and are known in France as the "Mauchamp-merino." It is interesting, as showing how generally any marked deviation of structure is accompanied by other deviations, that the first ram and his immediate offspring were of small size, with large heads, long necks, narrow chests, and long flanks; but these blemishes were removed by judicious crosses and selection. The long smooth wool was also correlated with smooth horns; and as horns and hair are homologous structures, we can understand the meaning of this correlation. If the Mauchamp and ancon breeds had originated a century or two ago, we should have had no record of their birth; and many a naturalist would no doubt have insisted, especially in the case of the Mauchamp race, that they had each descended from, or been crossed with, some unknown aboriginal form.

GOATS.

FROM the recent researches of M. Brandt, most naturalists now believe that all our goats are descended from the *Capra ægagrus* of the mountains of Asia, possibly mingled with the allied Indian species *C. falconeri* of India.⁹⁷ In Switzerland, during the neolithic period, the domestic goat was commoner than the sheep; and this very ancient race differed in no respect from that now common in Switzerland.⁹⁸ At the present time, the many races found in several parts of the world differ greatly from each other; nevertheless, as far as they have been tried,⁹⁹ they are all quite fertile when crossed. So numerous are the breeds, that Mr. G. Clark¹⁰⁰ has described eight distinct kinds imported into the one island of Mauritius. The ears of one kind were enormously developed, being, as measured by Mr. Clark, no less than 19 inches in length and $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in breadth. As with cattle, the mammæ of those breeds which are regularly milked become greatly developed; and, as

⁹⁷ Isidore Geoffroy St. Hilaire, 'Hist. Nat. Générale,' tom. iii. p. 87. Mr. Blyth ('Land and Water,' 1867, p. 37) has arrived at a similar conclusion, but he thinks that certain Eastern races may perhaps be in part descended from the Asiatic markhor.

⁹⁸ Rütimeyer, 'Pfahlbauten,' s. 127.

⁹⁹ Godron, 'De l'Espèce,' tom. i. p. 402.

¹⁰⁰ 'Annals and Mag. of Nat. History,' vol. ii. (2nd series), 1848, p. 363.