

as are the beaks of the rock pigeon and goldfinch, the end has undoubtedly been nearly gained, as far as external shape and proportions are concerned.

Not only should our animals be examined with the greatest care whilst alive, but, as Anderson remarks,<sup>9</sup> their carcasses should be scrutinised, "so as to breed from the descendants of such only as, in the language of the butcher, cut up well." The "grain of the meat" in cattle, and its being well marbled with fat,<sup>10</sup> and the greater or less accumulation of fat in the abdomen of our sheep, have been attended to with success. So with poultry, a writer,<sup>11</sup> speaking of Cochin-China fowls, which are said to differ much in the quality of their flesh, says, "the best mode is to purchase two young brother-cocks, "kill, dress, and serve up one; if he be indifferent, similarly "dispose of the other, and try again; if, however, he be fine "and well-flavoured, his brother will not be amiss for breeding "purposes for the table."

The great principle of the division of labour has been brought to bear on selection. In certain districts<sup>12</sup> "the "breeding of bulls is confined to a very limited number of "persons, who by devoting their whole attention to this "department, are able from year to year to furnish a class of "bulls which are steadily improving the general breed of the "district." The rearing and letting of choice rams has long been, as is well known, a chief source of profit to several eminent breeders. In parts of Germany this principle is carried with merino sheep to an extreme point.<sup>13</sup> So important is the proper selection of breeding animals considered, "that the best flock-masters do not trust to their own judgment or to that of their shepherds, but employ persons called " 'sheep-classifiers,' who make it their special business to "attend to this part of the management of several flocks, "and thus to preserve, or if possible to improve, the best "qualities of both parents in the lambs." In Saxony, "when

<sup>9</sup> 'Recreations in Agriculture,' vol. ii. p. 409.

<sup>10</sup> Youatt on Cattle, pp. 191, 227.

<sup>11</sup> Ferguson, 'Prize Poultry,' 1854, p. 208.

<sup>12</sup> Wilson, in 'Transact. Highland

Agricult. Soc.,' quoted in 'Gard. Chronicle,' 1844, p. 29.

<sup>13</sup> Simmonds, quoted in 'Gard. Chronicle,' 1855, p. 637. And for the second quotation, see Youatt on Sheep, p. 171.