

Berkshire sub-breeds, it is said, "the white should be confined "to four white feet, a white spot between the eyes, and a few "white hairs behind each shoulder." Mr. Saddler possessed "three hundred pigs, every one of which was marked in this "manner."<sup>69</sup> Marshall, towards the close of the last century, in speaking of a change in one of the Yorkshire breeds of cattle, says the horns have been considerably modified, as "a clean, small, sharp horn has been *fashionable* for the last twenty years."<sup>70</sup> In a part of Germany the cattle of the Race de Gfoehl are valued for many good qualities, but they must have horns of a particular curvature and tint, so much so that mechanical means are applied if they take a wrong direction; but the inhabitants "consider it of the highest "importance that the nostrils of the bull should be flesh- "coloured, and the eyelashes light; this is an indispensable "condition. A calf with blue nostrils would not be pur- "chased, or purchased at a very low price."<sup>71</sup> Therefore let no man say that any point or character is too trifling to be methodically attended to and selected by breeders.

*Unconscious Selection.*—By this term I mean, as already more than once explained, the preservation by man of the most valued, and the destruction of the least valued individuals, without any conscious intention on his part of altering the breed. It is difficult to offer direct proofs of the results which follow from this kind of selection; but the indirect evidence is abundant. In fact, except that in the one case man acts intentionally, and in the other unintentionally, there is little difference between methodical and unconscious selection. In both cases man preserves the animals which are most useful or pleasing to him, and destroys or neglects the others. But no doubt a far more rapid result follows from methodical than from unconscious selection. The "roguing" of plants by gardeners, and the destruction by law in Henry VIII.'s reign of all under-sized mares, are instances of a process the reverse of selection in the ordinary sense of the

<sup>69</sup> Sidney's edit. of Youatt, 1860, pp. 24, 25.

<sup>70</sup> 'Rural Economy of Yorkshire,'

vol. ii. p. 182.

<sup>71</sup> Moll et Gayot, 'Du Bœuf,' 1860 p. 547.