THE BIRMINGHAM SHOW.

After making a deviation on the occasion of their visit to Manchester last year, the Royal Agricultural Society has now returned to their custom of visiting the Implement Department of their great country meeting in Birmingham, to-day (Monday), on the Monday following. This arrangement appears to answer best as a rule, but last year the unfavourable question of local circumstances rendered a departure not only pardonable, but reasonable, while the results amply confirmed the wisdom of the step. The generally recognised success, however, of last year's modification, the patrons of the Royal Agricultural Society seem highly pleased at the present arrangements with which they are now more familiar, and which seems to suit their purpose better than a mid-week opening. The entries for this year's meeting, held in July in the Midland, near Birmingham. It will be remembered that the ordinary course of events was much disturbed by the Manchester meeting fixed at Maidstone the Society would have been held in that town this month, but the visitation was favourably received and readily responded to by the Society's Council, and, matters having apparently adjusted themselves, a spacious and suitable site was secured in the well-known Perry Barr district. There is one objection to this site, and one only, that it is the distance from the centre of the town. The Park is distant about nine miles from Birmingham, and this is obviously a considerable drawback to the attendance of visitors without detailing something of the locality of the showyard from the town, however, it may be stated that the distance is not so great as to be unpleasant, or for it is safe to say that so complete and excellent are the train arrangements between the town and the showyard that, with the Darlington ground, Four Oaks Park, will be not only easily accessible from the town, but from the North Western and Midland lines. The companies have in times past proved themselves capable of coping with excessive demands, and their present arrangements we might expect that the disadvantage of distance will be reduced to a minimum.

It is invariably a quiet day even in the Implement Section, to which alone the public are admitted. In no sense of the word is it a pleasure day as far as sightseers are concerned, and for this reason it will be left unopened until to-day. Business, it was quite apparent, did not expect much before this week, as at most of the implement yards of stands men were busily employed arranging the implements, machinery, or goods as the case may be, just as if the turnstiles were open for business. As a rule, the finishing touches were completed on Saturday, and before the day closed the implement yard had begun to assume something of the orderly and imposing appearance it will present to-day. The Implement Department is by many the most unique and remarkable section of the Exhibition, and it can be said that the presence of live stock and the various attractions and interesting features it may with great truth be affirmed that the substantial measure of success, financial or otherwise, would be unattainable without the Implement Department. The Exhibition of implements and machinery and farm and estate requisites this year is on a far larger scale than on any previous occasion in this country. At the Jubilee meeting at Windsor in 1887 a larger area was occupied by the display of exhibits of this class, but, great as that memorable event, there probably never was a show to surpass that at present on view in Perry Barr Park. It is about equal in dimensions to that which another year has witnessed, in addition to all that was seen on that occasion, there is now on view the largest and finest collection ever brought by row on row of machinery and implements of all sorts immediately in front of him, but not to be either so high or so low that he is not attracted by the handsome permanent stands of our leading seedsmen, and which constitute real ornaments to the Show and confer an appearance of substantial visitor. The exhibits of Messrs. Sutton and Sons and Messrs. Webb and Sons on the right hand side of the entrance, those of Messrs. Carter and Co., among others, on the left, are notably worthy of attention. Passing on to the rear of these the heavier classes of exhibits are displayed, first and in motion, we are confronted with the well-known and world-renowned name of Ransomes, a word of praise, for a careful inspection of the stands and a systematic examination of the engines will show that great amount has been expended before the thousands of visitors whom the Show will attract during the next five days. At this season of the year agricultural visitors will probably be most interested in the displays of haymaking and harvesting machinery. Of this description of exhibits there are magnificent displays, calculated to satisfy this seasonal curiosity and interest the well-stocked and orderly stands of Messrs. Bamford and Sons, Messrs. Hornsby and Sons, Blackstone and Co.; Harrison, McGregor, and Co.; Lord F. Howard; Kearsley and Co.; J. and H. Bayworth and Co.; Massey-Harris Company (limited); Picksley, Sims, and Co.; Ransomes, Sims, and Jefferies; Samuelson and Co.; and Walter A. Wood, all of which are deserving of a careful examination. Prominent exhibitors of engines suitable for steam or horse power are Messrs. Fowler, Marshall, and Co.; Robey and Co.; Marshall, Sons, and Co.; Fowler and Co.; J. and H. M'Laren; Robinson and Co.; Humphrey and Co.; G. Bennett and Sons; and Clayton and Shuttleworth. Dairy fittings will have their attention attracted by the specialities of the Dairy Engineering Company; J. A. Lister and Co.; Vipan and Headley, and Bradford and Co.

The awards in the competitions for self-moving vehicles were posted on Saturday, the trials having been place in the locality of the show earlier in the week. In the first case prizes of £100 and £50 were offered for self-moving vehicles for light loads, but the first prize only was awarded, the successful exhibit being that of the Motor Power Company (Limited), an attractive vehicle priced at £250. The competition for vehicles for heavy loads was a more important one, the entries, as compared with four in the other class. Both premiums were located in this case, the respective winning exhibits being those of the Daimler Motor Company, Leyland, and the Steam Carriage and Waggon Company, Chiswick, the prize being £250 and £150. The vehicle which secured the first prize is a most capacious and serviceable-looking invention. There was very keen competition for the £10 prize offered for the best method of safeguarding chaff-cutters, to comply with the Chaff-cutting Machines (Accidents) Act, 1897, and which comes into force on the 1st of August next. Sixteen machines competed, and after a searching test the premium was awarded to the ingenious device invented and patented by Messrs. Richmond and Chandler, Manchester. The successful device is well adapted to meet the conditions of the Act, while it in no way interferes with the working capacity and freedom of the machine.

Yesterday the usual Service was conducted in the large marquee in the showyard, when there was a large attendance, in addition to members of the Council and officials of the Society. The Judges of live stock begin their duties at nine this morning.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

The Irving Amateur Dramatic Club on Saturday evening gave a performance of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure." The play had been studied with some care, and the performance was smoothly. In the interval music supplied by Mr. Arthur Fell was given under his conductorship by an orchestra composed of members of the Gilmour family. The music seemed suitable and well executed. Unfortunately, there was also "incidental music," by which several scenes were marred. The song "Take, oh, take those eyes away," was happily rendered by pupils of Miss Hilda Wilson. Some liberties were taken with the text. In Act IV., Scene 2, the words, "This shall absolutely resign your place," which refer to the letter from the Duke, were interpreted by the Duke's taking off his monk's hood and discovering himself to the Provost. This strikes us as an unnatural reading. The text of the play was necessarily shortened and excessively bowdlerised.

"Measure for Measure" is hardly a play for amateurs. The great scenes cannot be truly given in a mutilated text, and to carry the whole text is a task to which only a company of the highest order would be adequate. There was nothing of the highest order would be adequate. There was much conscientious acting on Saturday, so that in passages the admiration of the audience was commanded. But the great parts require more than good acting; they must be given with that mastery which is denied to amateurs. The attempt to make the piece presentable to modern ears by the excision of the phrases of which modern custom does not sanction the utterance is bound to fail, for the element which is thus to be got rid of is the substance of the plot.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

POLO.—Though the polo grounds were rather deserted last week several interesting matches were played between regimental teams and sides representing Hurlingham and Ranelagh. These games are arranged every year for the purpose of affording practice, and in some degree of testing the merits of the players previous to the Inter-Regimental Tournament. This important event in the Polo Season is arranged to begin at the ground at Hurlingham on Saturday, May 14th, and as usual at the beginning of the season seemed to be altogether out of form, have come on lately in a manner challenge cup, which is to be contested for by Miss Martin, who played with great accuracy and judgment.

SIR NICHOLAS CRISP.

A ceremony, unique perhaps in its character, which recalled to those who took part in it the stirring times of the Civil War, was performed on Saturday afternoon in Oxford Street, in the Parish of St. Michael, Bread Street (now demolished); and recently, on the application of Mr. Lory Milner-Gibson-Cullum of St. Michael's, Bassishaw, a memorial in black marble of King Charles I., beneath the bust a memorial in black marble of King Charles I., beneath the bust a memorial in black marble of King Charles I., beneath the bust