

As in the Shorthorn classes, there were two types, which gave no end of trouble to the judges. Outsiders chatter and give their opinions very freely, but endow them with the ermine and they would be found to be human. Makin was severely criticised by the men in the barns, but without reason.

In the sweepstakes classes, open to all beef breeds, we came together as judges, and never have two men met whose opinions so closely coincided. On only three occasions was the referee called in, and then in placing 3 or 4 positions. In cows, the 5 were placed unanimously, and this without consultation, as in all the classes. Aged bull—Shorthorn 1st, Angus 2nd and 3rd. Two-year-old bull—Shorthorn winner. One-year-old—Angus 1st and 2nd, Galloway 3rd. Bull calves—Shorthorn 1st, Angus 2nd, Galloway 3rd. Cows—Shorthorn 1st, Hereford 2nd (the same position she occupied in class), Galloway 3rd. Yearlings—Hereford 1st, Angus 2nd and 3rd. Calves—Angus 1st, 2nd and 3rd, Hereford 4th, Shorthorn 5th. Herds—Shorthorn 1st, Hereford 2nd, Angus 3rd and 4th, Galloway 5th. Young herds—Angus 1st, Hereford 2nd, Angus 3rd, Shorthorn 4th.

To recapitulate, the record that Ontario has heretofore gained as the breeding grounds of this continent has been fully maintained at Omaha. The verdicts gained at the great Columbian have been fully sustained. At the latter there may have been the lucky chance, but when followed up by similar successes at Omaha the chance is removed and the fact seems actually demonstrated. Get out your herd books and work out the winning lines and you will corroborate what I have written.

POLLLED-ANGUS

made a very pretty exhibit, especially in the younger classes, seven herds being represented.

THE DAIRY BREEDS.

As regards the dairy breeds, I have to plead a lack of time to prepare a review at this hurried moment, being in a rush to catch next issue. In Jerseys, Miller & Sibley, Pa., and Robbins, Ind., were the principal contestants, honors going to the former. This was a very interesting exhibit, and the awards were closely followed. It is worthy of note, however, that the 1st prize aged bull here was second at Toronto, and the 2nd prize cow at Omaha got no place in the prize list at Toronto. Holsteins made a very fine show, Stevens & Sons, of N. Y., and Chapwell, of Iowa, being the principal exhibitors, honors going mainly to the former, including the senior herd prize—the produce of a cow, the get of a bull, and the champion female.

SHEEP.

Ootswolds had but two representatives to maintain the honor of the breed, but they were exceptionally well heeled, Harding pulling off the majority of the prizes for rams, with Watson (our Castlederg man) in full cry after the blue ribbons. In ewe classes, of the notabilities amongst the contestants must be mentioned Harding's imp. Bagnall ram, 1st in aged class, was a sheep of fine presence, who at the runner-up was Canadian bred. In the two year-old class a Canadian beat, our imp. Garne, a capital specimen, and one that has every appearance of being a good stud sheep. Yearlings—Harding presented two imp. sheep, each in better show condition than Watson's imp. Royal winner of last year, so well-known in Canadian showyards. In lamb class Watson was, of course, first. The one that in Canada had been placed second was here, however, ranked higher than the winner in Ontario. It is harder to keep a ram lamb up to the mark than older sheep, and I presume the best has gone stale. Ewes 3 years old—Watson 1st and 3rd, Harding 2nd. Two-year-old class produced an excellent display, Harding winning, with Watson a close 2nd, and had the decision been reversed no milk would have been spilled. Yearlings—Harding 1st and 2nd, with a Garne in lead and a Canadian a close 2nd; Watson got no higher than 3rd and 4th. In lambs, Watson had a pretty easy win with the Royal winner. The sweepstakes went on rams to Harding, 1st and 2nd, and in ewes, Harding 1st on two-year-olds, 2nd on yearling, with Watson 3rd, a lamb.

LINCOLNS.

Gibson & Walker won all firsts but one, and that in two-year-old ewes, to which they were entitled, and all seconds except aged ewes, where W. Oliver got in a second. Sweepstakes followed the class awards, and the same firm won six firsts and seconds in wether classes. It is unnecessary to go through this class, as they are so well-known to your readers who have followed the Canadian shows this season. There were no American competitors, so to Ontario belongs all the glory.

LEICESTERS, HAMPSHIRE, AND SOUTHDOWNS

require no comment, no Canadians being interested and no competition. G. McKerrrow showed a nice lot of Southdowns, but as there was no dispute he had a soft time.

OXFORDS

put up the best show ever seen on this continent, and within their ranks was found the champion male of the various mutton breeds, "Dick" Stone's sensational imported yearling; a grand sheep, and perhaps deserving the honor. As there were but two real competitors, Stone and McKerrrow, our breeders are not particularly interested. McKerrrow, however, found that "Dick" and "George" were a combination very hard to down, as others have done before now.

SHROPSHIRE.

These favorites made a capital exhibition; numbers were wanting, but quality was there in great evidence. The fight was between G. Allen and Ballinger, with the former winning most ribbons, though the latter showed a ewe that was a perfect model, except in size. T. Bradburn, a member of the English firm of that name, and a late importation, put in some of the most artistic work ever seen in an American showyard, and to his skill must be assigned the placing of the ewes. Enthusiastically exclaiming after the award was made (she was a Bradburn ewe), "Why, this ewe was made before I was born!" giving credit to the breeders of 40 years ago for the skill with which they were preparing the foundation of a sheep, the culmination of which was found in the cham-

pion ewe at the great Omaha International Show. In rams, G. Allen brought forward a Mansell, just one to make a fellow break the tenth commandment. There is a something in these Mansell rams no other breeders seem to have the secret of supplying—size, substance and quality combined. He was sold to Mr. Dolph for \$350. Your readers are so little interested in these class competitions that I refrain from an extended report, especially as I have now occupied so much of your space. The fat class prizes were not awarded when I left; and neither were the awards made in Yorkshires, the only breed that Canadian exhibitors were interested in. Mr. J. Brethour felt, however, that the competition was not strong enough to keep him back, and reported business brisk and that he had sold over \$2 000 worth of Yorkshires.

RICHARD GIBSON.

Fall Care of Ewes and Lambs.

BY J. MCALIG, PETERBORO.

Owing to the mixed character of farm work in the fall months, consisting as it does of plowing, root-picking, teaming, apple-picking, etc., fall feeding of stock is not always carefully attended to, and among the different kinds of stock, sheep, probably, are subject to greatest neglect at this time. Pigs are generally confined and easily attended morning, noon and night; cattle are housed and given a light feed night and morning; but sheep are left until the last, and frequently get no care until their food is covered by snow and they seek the barns themselves.

Sheep require both food and shelter at this season. In the first place, the quality of the grasses deteriorates as soon as they have been touched by the September frosts. The gain in quantity of grass by reason of the early fall rains is speedily followed by a loss in nutritive value. The soggy, frost-bitten tops are apt to produce indigestion. A nourishing field of rape is the best supplement to the meadow at this time of year, and though its value is fully recognized by good breeders, yet in ordinary cases it is the exception rather than the rule. It is peculiarly adapted to the taste and likewise to the digestive machinery of the sheep, which is very roomy. Rape is, besides, of the generous, luxuriant nature so suitable to ewes during the season of copulation, and tends to the production of a numerous fall of lambs. In the absence of this food a small grain ration should supplement the poorer grasses. The grain, which should be principally oats, is valuable not only for the nourishment it contains, but acts as a stimulant and tonic to the digestive processes. One small feed each day, early in the morning, is all that is necessary; the sharpness of the appetite should be broken before the paunch has been burdened by a heavy load of mist-covered dead grass. The dangers avoided by this care are indigestion and consequent breaking-down later in the season when the transition is made from fall to winter keep. The ewe will be noticed bleating continually and coughing in a succession of sharp, dry coughs. She will lose flesh and probably break down completely and die at lambing time. This happens more frequently with young ewes in lamb for the first time than with older ones. As the season advances and grass becomes scarcer as well as poorer in quality, hay should be given in small quantities besides. While there is any grass, little hay will be eaten. If the weather is warm, sheep will scarcely touch it, and little will be required until snow flies or until the temperature has sharpened and the ground is frozen for the greater part of the day.

Secondly, shelter is no less necessary than food. Our climate is an excessive one, and the transition from a summer temperature sometimes as high as 95 degrees to a winter one approaching 40 degrees below is more or less violent. The variation of temperature, however, is not the chief evil of our climate. Sheep will stand considerable heat as well as considerable cold. Wool is light and not much of an incubance in summer, and is a good protection in winter, owing to its being a poor conductor of heat. It prevents the escape of the natural heat of the body. The chief trouble is the rain. In the spring the rains do little harm, as they are followed or accompanied by a rapidly increasing heat and consequently by speedy evaporation. In the fall, however, evaporation is slight on account of the decreasing heat as the sun retreats south; consequently the ground becomes saturated and the rains and air become colder and colder as the season advances. The sheep are wet underfoot all the time and rest on a wet lair at night, except on very dry and well-drained uplands.

The enormous development of wool resulting from the improvement of the sheep likewise leads to discomfort in extreme wet weather. The art of the sheep-breeder has changed the covering of the sheep from hair to wool;—his art is just as necessary to preserve what he has gained. But the wool of the modern sheep will not shed water like the hair of the ancient one. It has frequently been observed that wool deteriorates when the sheep are neglected. A kind of kempy, hairy coat will project out past the under coat of wool proper, but this appearance of wool is interesting not alone as showing the effect of abandonment on the character of the fleece, but to show how the character of the fleece changes to meet conditions of exposure. Now, we do not want the character to change. We have developed in modern wool a commodity suited to our wants; therefore we must counteract the tendency to change by lessening exposure. The yolk of wool, it is true, together with the

animal oil found with it, sheds a good deal of rain, but even yolk is soluble, as is seen by its absence in the fleece immediately after sheep-washing, and by the effect of night damp on the exterior of the fleece. Sheep that are housed in summer develop large quantities of yolk, due, doubtless, partly to extra feeding, but not less so to the protection from rain, dew, etc. If yolk were developed extensively outside and developed more liberally the greater the exposure, we might argue that yolk was designed by nature as a protection to the skin. This is not the case. It is, rather, for the nourishment of the wool and for the prevention of its crotching by friction of the serrated fibers in the ordinary motions of the animal. From the fact that the yolk lying close to the skin is largely impervious to moisture in the form of perspiration from the inside is an evidence that it is some protection at least against the penetration of rain to the skin on the outside. Its value to this end is demonstrated by the extra hardness of the Merino against wet weather on account of the large quantity of yolk contained in the wool, and of the Down breeds compared to the long-wooled breeds for the same reason.

It is important to remember, nevertheless, that a sheep once chilled revives with difficulty. Its circulatory system is somewhat weak, and the quantity of blood relative to the weight of the carcass and the surface exposed much less than in the horse or cow. Significant corroboration of this weakness is furnished by the customary treatment of a sick ewe. If a ewe gets sick it is generally taken to mean that she is going to die, and it is thought useless to try to do anything for her. The progress of veterinary science will dispel this idea, but it shows the necessity of prevention, in the case of the sheep, against sickness. Too much has been written about the hardness of the sheep and its indifference to the inclemencies of the weather. It can withstand cold, but it cannot stand, combined with cold, the universal solvent, rain. Rains are frequent and come at irregular intervals, but there is no excuse for a man owning sheep at all who neglects to provide ordinary shelter for them in rough weather. The effects of neglect in respect to shelter are just as far-reaching as in the case of neglect of food. The tendency to catarrh, influenza and diarrhoea is greater on account of low condition brought on by exposure. The constitution of the fetus is likewise affected. Overfeeding may produce too vigorous and large offspring, and, consequently, danger to the ewe at parturition, but underfeeding and exposure mean feeble offspring; i. e., a condition of constitutional weakness which will cover the whole life of the lamb.

Lambs require perhaps more attention in the fall than ewes do. They have the same hardships to endure while still immature. The change of season, the loss of the milk of the dam, and the necessity of satisfying natural growth, makes the business of self-support a serious one for them, and the help they need will be greater at this time than at any other. They should have already learned to eat small quantities of grain before weaning, and should be kept in good heart by continuing the grain ration after weaning. Attention is of more consequence than the amount of feed, though it is perhaps true that at no time in the life of the sheep can food be invested in it with greater profit. A handful of dry oats in the morning and the same or a little more of crushed oats and peas mixed with bran in the evening is sufficient. Twice as much oats as peas (by weight) and bran equal in weight to the two is a good mixture. This ration will be still further improved and a fine bloom put on the lambs by the addition of a pint or less of ground oil-meal to the gallon of the mixture. Have them go into winter quarters in good vigor and they will go through on turnips and peas straw, with a light feed of hay in the morning. They should have a little grain for four or five weeks before going out in the spring to look after themselves. Put them on the scales in the fall when they are ready to enter your flock as the mature product of your skill and attention and see what you have. What has been said in regard to shelter for ewes applies, with suitable exceptions, to lambs. To sum up:

Ewes require extra food when the grass begins to suffer from frosts to preserve the tone of their own constitution and likewise to develop a strong fetus.

They require shelter from wet grounds and heavy rains to keep them from chilling and consequently from getting catarrh, influenza, etc.

The lambs require both shelter and extra food more than the ewes do, as they are to some extent delicate and immature. Extra food gives better returns in young animals than in old ones.

A New Sheep.

The *St. Paul Farmer* announces the introduction of a new breed of sheep, evolved by a Mr. Bell, of Minnesota, by a combination of Shropshire, Southdown and Lincoln blood. The introducer has christened his new breed the "North Stars," and "for both wool and mutton, with the ability to carry a profitable fleece until six years old, with oil enough to keep the life of the wool, but not enough to chill the sheep in winter. He thinks he has a breed without a rival."

Read our important Christmas Number and Premium Announcement in another column.