

impulse to breed early, on the principle that like produces like. But this impulse would be counteracted by inheritance through the dams; hence it would not be found in the first generation as in pure Dorsets. But the inheritance from the sire of the tendency to breed early should be stronger than the counter inheritance from the dam to breed late; hence early lambs should be looked for rather than late ones. The second generation should have a stronger inheritance in this direction than the first, providing pure Dorset sires have been used, and in each succeeding generation the tendency to breed early should grow more and more, until it had become fixed & stably as we find it in the Dorsets themselves.

But here also a continuous process of culling would have to be adopted. Those females which failed to breed early would have to be discarded, from time to time, until the habit could be looked upon as firmly established. Attention would also have to be given to the food, as, by exercising due care in feeding, more especially as the desired breeding season approached, it could be somewhat hastened.

In this way grade ewes could be secured which would produce autumn lambs sufficient to meet the wants of the market. And, when thus secured, they could be crossed by rams of other breeds, if a different type of mutton lamb were desired. Such crossing would not influence the breeding qualities of the dams, but it would those of the progeny. In the female progeny there would be a tendency to revert to inferior types.

Shearing Sheep.

The proper time for shearing must vary greatly with the locality. While it is advisable as a general rule to shear early, yet this advice must be qualified to a considerable degree. When the ewes are shorn early, they feel more comfortable and are able to do better by their lambs; but if there is a likelihood of the weather becoming cold, there are chances of loss taken in shearing early. Ewes that are milking heavily cannot stand exposure without the protection that their fleeces would give them, and when these are removed they are likely to succumb to inflammation or some other disorder due to unusual exposure. It is best to err on the side of caution and not to remove the fleeces until there is actual need of it, and the rough spring weather has passed. There is a time, however, when it is both safe and advisable to remove the fleece, and that is when the wool has become ripe. This term may be applied to wool in the same sense that it is used

speaking of fruit. Anyone who has had experience in the shearing of sheep can tell as soon as hands are placed on the fleece if it is ripe, but this is best told when an attempt is made to remove some of it with the shears. Ripe wool may be removed from the sheep in shearing with fully one-half the trouble that it takes to shear it at any other time. It cuts easy, and enables the shearers to do his work with more dispatch. The method of shearing varies somewhat in different localities. Some shearers like to have the sheep placed on tables for them. This plan may work all right when small, fine-wool sheep are being shorn, but it is out of the question when the large sheep are being shorn. Others tie the legs of the sheep, but that would seem to be a needless operation. Where the shearing is done with the greatest skill and dispatch, the plan generally followed, with a few modifications, is that in vogue in Great Britain.

As good a method as any is to first remove the belly wool from the sheep as it lays on its side held down with the leg of the shearers passing over the sheep's neck, and its front foot held in the knee joint of the operator. After the belly wool is removed and also that between the hind legs, the sheep is then held between the legs, as it sits on its rump, and the wool from the back of the head down on the neck is removed. The neck and left foreleg is shorn, and then the opposite side is carried down to a similar point. The shearers now drops on one knee, and bending the sheep towards him the skin is made tight, so that the clips may be made quickly and without the least fear of cutting the sheep. The left side and the back, if the sheep is an ordinary-sized one, is carried down in this way; the sheep in the meantime being allowed to lie on its side on the floor. After the fleece from the left side and back has been removed as far as the hind leg, the shearers then takes hold of the hind leg and shears the wool off from the hind foot along the inner edge of the leg until he meets with that which has been shorn from the side. In this way the hind part is shorn, including the region about the tail. The sheep is now turned and the right side is shorn, the clips running from the back to the belly. The main consideration that the shearers has to bear in mind is to hold the sheep firmly and comfortably, and, above all things, see that the skin is always tight where the shears are at work; otherwise cuts are very likely to be made, no matter how experienced the shearers may be.

The fleeces may be tied up in several ways. A wool press may be made that will enable anyone to put the fleece up in a very attractive manner. Unless wool is being put up so as to be specially