

The aim of every farmer should be to rise on stepping-stones of his dead practice in sheep husbandry to higher things.

Trouble with Ewes in Yeanning.

Oftentimes there is trouble with ewes in yeanning their lambs. This is more noticeable some seasons than others. It may arise from various causes, some of which will be considered in this paper.

It may arise from a disordered condition of the system of the dam, and this, in turn, may be produced by constipation. Constipation is most commonly caused by feeding foods not sufficiently succulent. But it may arise from other causes, as insufficient exercise and an enfeebled condition of the system, caused by too close confinement in ill-ventilated sheds. A fevered condition of the system will, in turn, give rise to a rigid condition of the muscles of the neck of the uterus, and to a lack of the fluids necessary to aid parturition. The remedy will be the removal of the cause, or causes. In view of this fact, some roots fed to pregnant ewes must be helpful to them; and the same is true of corn ensilage. Both of these foods are succulent, and both help to keep the digestion in tone, if fed in moderation. Oil meal is also good, for it removes constipation, if present, and also tends to prevent it. But difficulties in yeanning arise from other causes.

The size of the head of the lambs at birth is sometimes a source of trouble. But this does not often happen when ewes are bred to rams of the same breed. It more commonly happens in cross-breeding. And it happens more frequently with ewes of certain breeds when so crossed. Merino ewes have sometimes given trouble in yeanning when cross-bred to certain kinds of large-sized rams. But the whole number of instances in which trouble has arisen from the size of the head of the lambs at birth is much less than is commonly supposed.

The position of the head is frequently a more serious source of trouble than the size of the head. The head is sometimes turned sidewise in the womb. Sometimes it is turned over backward, and in other instances it is down underneath the body. When this happens there is sure to be trouble, and parturition cannot take place in such instances until the head is placed in a natural position.

When trouble from such a source arises the dam should not be too long neglected, lest her labor pains cease and she become exhausted. The lamb will have to be pushed backward and

the head placed in a natural position. Some care and skill are requisite to do this work properly, and, owing to the lack of room, it is oftentimes difficult to do this. A little unnecessary roughness may give rise to an inflamed condition of the uterus, and this may lead to the death of the ewe.

Fierce controversies have been waged in the press over the fact that this breed or that breed, if used in crossing, will create trouble by generating lambs with heads too large; but it should be borne in mind that the size of the lamb at birth is largely determined by the ewe, and by the way in which she is fed. If the ewe is not supplied with nitrogenous food she cannot produce a large lamb, and if she is allowed to become constipated when pregnant, and more especially during the later stages of pregnancy, she will have trouble in parturition, even though her lambs are not large when they are born.

Dorset Sheep in Canada.

This peculiar breed of sheep have, undoubtedly, a mission before them in Canada. We refer to them as peculiar for the reason that they are peculiar as to the time at which they bring forth their lambs. The Dorset Horns are the only race of sheep in America that will breed so as to produce lambs in the autumn. The mission of this race, therefore, in Canada is to furnish lambs in the autumn and winter; that is to say, at that season of the year when other breeds of sheep will not furnish them.

This mission they can fulfil in two ways. First, the purebred lambs may be sold in the early markets, or, second, the females may be kept to further increase the numbers of the breed, and the males to be used in crossing, so as to produce a class of grade sheep that will also be able to produce lambs in the early autumn. But for some time to come good, pure Dorset Horn lambs will be too valuable to be put upon the market for feeding uses, so stock for such purposes will have to be sought for by producing them from Dorset grades.

That the propensity to produce lambs in the autumn can be engrafted upon grade females should scarcely be doubted. It may take some time to do this, but a few generations should suffice. The first generation of Dorset grades should have a tendency to breed earlier than their dams, the second generation still earlier, and improvement with each generation should manifest itself until the habit of bringing forth the young in the autumn would be permanently fixed. It is