

don't think that any one ought to despair of succeeding, if he will follow out, precisely, our instructions. You are sure to have it here, sooner or later, so you may as well learn how to cure it before it arrives.

With a steady hand, and a very sharp knife, pare away all the loose horn, avoiding as much as possible making the hoof bleed. Then, dress with a feather, the parts affected with "butter of antimony" (Mr. Stephens says this is cruel, but the disease is worse than the cure), taking care that it reaches every bit of the spongy part. The flesh will smoke under the treatment, but, if un pityingly carried out, the patient will recover, and that is surely, in the long run, more humane than allowing the poor beast to die in agonies of pain, as he indisputably will if the disease is permitted to take its course.

The "rot" is a disease with which I am not well acquainted. As a boy, some sixty years ago, we heard a good deal of it in South Wales, and we picked up one evening, five or six hares, which had died from its effects. But from 1834 till we left England in 1858, nothing had been heard of it. Till 1878, when its ravages were dreadful, whole parishes lost every sheep a brother writes us word that on his property, in Gloucestershire, they had had neither hares, rabbits, nor sheep, for the last five years! The loss of sheep in England was to be reckoned by millions, and there seems to be no cure for the complaint.

Another omission—when ewes and lambs are feeding off rapes, tares, &c., the hurdles should have gaps to allow the lambs to pass through on to the fresh piece ahead of their dams. White pease are generally given to the lambs in troughs outside the fold; they make lean meat, and are a very strengthening food.

THE ADVANTAGES OF SHEEP-RAISING FAIRLY STATED.

Practical Suggestion.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate."

Our sheep have come through the winter in much better condition than we expected they would, considering the unusual scarcity of fodder on the farm as a result of the extreme drought of last summer, following the destructive frost which struck the Province in the month of May. Clover hay, which is the principal fodder for sheep, was a complete failure, and had we not been so fortunate as to get a fair crop of peas we should have been at a loss how to carry our sheep through the winter. Our peas were sown late (finished sowing May 23rd), and they never got sufficient rain to wet to the bottom of the inverted sod on which they were sown, but two or three light showers came in time to send them forward when we had almost lost hope of them, and we harvested a nice crop of bright, clean vines, well covered with sound and good peas. When we have a fair crop of peas we have never any fears about the successful wintering of our sheep. (1) If we are fortunate in getting them harvested without rain, the straw—threshed with a flail, and not too cleanly threshed—makes excellent fodder, but if we have a wet harvest and the straw is damaged we feed the peas unthreshed, and when judiciously fed there is no better feed for

sheep. Of course the feeding must be light, for very little of such fodder will keep sheep fat enough for breeding purposes. For several winters we have kept the most of our breeding ewes at an off farm where no roots are stored, and their only feed up to lambing time has been peas in the straw—no roots and no water but the snow they have access to in a roomy yard, and we never had such strong and healthy lambs. The ewes have plenty of milk and are in fine condition. I know it will be said that sheep need water and ought to have it, and I do not doubt that a little water would be good for them, but, on the other hand, I feel sure that if they had free access to all the cold water they would take after, eating dry and heating food, there would have been more danger of sickness among the ewes and the lambs would not have been so strong and active. My experience has satisfied me that liberal feeding of roots to in-lamb ewes brings weak and flabby lambs, especially when the ewes do not get sufficient exercise. (2)

Our lambing season this year was very successful. We had a large proportion of twins and lost but one lamb, and that one of twins. Two have dropped out since, but that is not unusual. We are raising more than a lamb and a half to the ewe and all are going on well on the early grass, which has come so opportunely to help those who were so scarce of fodder.

TWIN-BEARING IN SHEEP.

Prizes to shepherds—Great crops of lambs—Herility—Fooland tares.

The following article appears editorially in the Mark-Lane Express:

In many of the leading sheep-breeding districts it is customary to give prizes to those shepherds who have been able to rear most lambs. Scarcely any kind of reward given to laborers is of more importance than this one, not that the best of shepherds can cope with the disasters of seasons, or secure by perseverance and industrial good management a satisfactory rearing of lambs if the system adopted by his master is a faulty one. But this not being the case, and there being no casualties or extraordinary vicissitudes of seasons to complicate matters, shepherds have a great chance, by careful management, and taking great interest in their work, to save many lambs alive which would otherwise be sacrificed; and it is the direct interest of all flockowners to give them every possible encouragement.

In most of the leading sheep-breeding counties it is customary for the leading society to carry out this laudable undertaking and the newly-organized Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Societies have premiums for those shepherds who have reared the largest numbers of lambs and sustained the smallest losses of ewes. The three classes into which the Cambs and Suffolk flocks were divided ranged up to 400, 300, and 200. In the largest section, after three lambs had been deducted for the loss of each ewe, the increase in Mr. J. G. Barclay's flock was found to be 29.05 per score, and his shepherd had first prize. The number of ewes reared was 402, and only seven ewes were lost, the lambs reared

(2) And the ewes would probably slip lots of lambs.—Ed.

being 605. The second prize was awarded to the shepherd of the Colonial College Flock, who reared 604 lambs from 403 ewes, losing 9 ewes. The increase of lambs to the score was in this instance 28.63. In the class of not less than 300 ewes, Mr. J. Sherwood's shepherd won first prize, who had reared 577 lambs from 355 ewes. He lost 12 ewes, it is true, but the increase totted up 30.47 lambs to the score. Mr. H. S. Dawson's shepherd got second prize, having reared 510 lambs from 332 ewes, his losses of the latter having been only 6. The two prize-winning flocks in the class of not less than 200 ewes gave even still better results. Mr. T. Hayward's shepherd reared 359 lambs from 224 ewes, losing 2 of the latter, so that his increase per score reached to 31.60. Mr. H. Orford's man was not far behind, for he could claim 371 lambs from 253 ewes, and he had lost only 3 ewes.

Now, as regards the propensity to bear twins, some flocks naturally possess it much more than others do, and, of course, the propensity can be educated. By taking care to breed from ewes that were themselves twin-born, and of employing rams which also were twin-produced, it is in the power of any flockmaster to get larger numbers of twins than he would otherwise be likely to do. Nor is this all, for the flockmaster must be a good keeper if he desires to favor large increases. Moreover, some breeds of sheep are naturally more productive than others, the Somerset and Dorset Horns being probably the most productive of any. Whether there should be a large percentage of lambs to ewes depends of course, therefore, on the flockmaster himself more than on his shepherd. The latter can by care and good management make a successful rearing of them after they are reared, but he has no control over the system which causes prolific crop or the reverse, beyond placing with the master's consent, the ewes when coupled with the rams into a forcing piece of keep such as clover or rape, which is well known to old shepherds to be one way of promoting the object in view.

There are flockmasters, no doubt, not over-anxious to induce the twin-bearing propensity in their flocks, which as a rule will be found to be those who either have poor farms on which flocks are occasionally subjected to great scarcity, or when bad management in the general farming system is often the rule. (1) Shepherds are powerless under such masters, and the men have no encouragement to make the best of things. Only when flockmasters and shepherds work hand in hand together can the best results ensue. A really good shepherd is invaluable, how much so only large sheep-owners know. When the right sort of man has been obtained the master should take care to try and keep him, as large numbers do. We often find shepherds remaining on the same farm from youth to old age, or at least it was customary to find this in the early part and middle of the present century, and although agricultural laborers roam about more than formerly, faithful servants are still to be found, and many shepherds take the greatest possible interest in the welfare of the animals they have to tend.

Although we have used the term twin-bearing in our title, it must be considered to include the production of triplets, and even quartettes also. By educating the propensity it sometimes

(1) Worthy of attention.—Ed.

develops into a prodigious success, and the ewe may possibly rear a larger family than she can bring up. Nature generally imparts the milk-bearing function equal to the other, however. The one naturally accompanies the other almost invariably; but it must be admitted that the strain would be very severe on the constitution of the ewe to have to rear three lamblings, especially when they begin to grow big. Of course, a little trough food should be regularly supplied both to ewes and progeny under such circumstances, and in all cases when ewes have to rear more than single lambs they should have extraordinary assistance, and be adequately well nurtured.

DEATH IN THE SHEEP PENS

Three dangers—Overdoing it—Mixed foods—Too much nitrogenous food—Bleeding—Linsed-oake.

At this season the sheep farmer has an anxious time, for three reasons. First, if he is forcing his fattening sheep there is danger of overdoing them. Second, when stocking his young clovers there is danger of bursting the sheep. Third, if the sheep are not shorn there is a danger, particularly among the longwools, that they may be cast.

The danger from over-forcing sheep is, of course, not confined to this season, although it is often more marked in the spring months than at other periods, because in those districts where tews are fattened out the supply of keep, the desire to get the land cleaned in time for a spring-sown crop, and market considerations, tend to make the farmer hasten out his sheep as rapidly as possible. Every fattener of sheep knows the liability of the unwelcome information from the shepherd, "There was another sheep dead this morning," or "One of those tews would not come up to the trough, and I had to cut its throat." This happens most frequently when the sheep are being fed at high pressure. Of course there is always a liability of sheep dying from other causes, but, except on change of food, more particularly when first put on to roots in the autumn, the losses are few. A shepherd knows the cause—overdoing, or, as he puts it, making blood too fast. Making blood too fast is not, however, a strictly accurate term to use, and for this reason is somewhat misleading. Within the last day or two a large farmer complained to us that he was losing four or five sheep a week, and he was of opinion that it was the maize they received which caused it. In this we think he was mistaken, as will be shown. It is generally recognized that the mixing of a large variety of foods is beneficial, and, as a rule, it is so; but the mere fact of mixing a number of feeding-stuffs does not ensure that the best results will be obtained. When, using the several kinds of grain produced on an ordinary farm the mixing of these in equal proportions is generally attended with safety and good results. When, however, the farmer goes into the market and buys cakes and other feeding-stuffs to add to the mixture, it is not unlikely that he may upset its feeding value, and render it less efficient though more costly.

The farmer referred to was giving his sheep a very mixed mixture, as it was composed of undecorticated cotton

(1) Perfectly correct.—Ed.