

moderate degree of cold, *so long as they are kept dry*, during the first few days after being born they should be carefully housed.

At a fortnight from birth, castrate all the males intended for market. The too frequent habit here, particularly among the French-Canadians, of allowing the male-lambs to run uncastrated with the ewes until they are sent to the butcher in the fall, cannot be too severely reprobated. By the time a ram-lamb is 3 months old, the natural desire for the female begins to be felt, and thenceforth the ewes of the flock have no peace, the lamb himself does not thrive, and what flesh there is on its bones becomes red in colour and strong in flavour. After castration, the tails of the lambs (ram and ewe) should be docked: the hind-quarters look all the better for it, as regards the lambs for immediate slaughter, and, as regards the stock-sheep, they will be all the safer from the fly, etc., during the summer.

As soon as the lamb shows any signs of being inclined to eat, which may be known by his picking at any locks of hay or straw about the pen, a division should be made to separate the pen into two parts, in which division a *creep-hole* should be cut, large enough to allow the lamb to pass but small enough to keep back the ewe. In the separated part of the pen, a trough should be placed, in which should be put crushed pease and oats, clover-hay chaff, and if the pen is littered with pea-haulm, it will be none the worse.

But we have said nothing about the food to be given to the ewe, all this time. Our own practice, when we bred early lambs (Hampshire-downs, of course) for the London market, was to select the oldest ewes of the flock for that purpose, and to fatten, as it was technically called, both "lamb and dam." The ewes were put to the ram about the first week of September, having been previously fed on *rape* for three weeks, or so, to bring them "into season" all together, so that the lambs might be dropped pretty well about the same date, viz., the first week in February; this will save the farmer, or his shepherd, if his flock is large enough to keep one, a good deal of trouble and worry, as nothing is more annoying than to have the lambing-time spread over a long period.

For the first few days after parturition, the ewe should not be too lavishly supplied with food.

A bran-mash, with a few oats in it, cut roots in moderate quantities, and a little meadow-hay, if there is any handy, will do her well. By degrees, a trifle of linseed-meal, a few pease, and clover-hay-chaff may be added, but not too much, until the lamb has begun to eat freely from its trough, when the ewe may be fed liberally, attention being paid to its fæces and general behaviour, for no animal shows a tendency to suffer from any pain or complaint more freely than the sheep, the drooping of the head and particularly of the ears being infallible signs of something being wrong. However, as a general rule, if the ewe gets a half-pound of linseed meal and a half pint of crushed pease a day, with the roots and clover-hay chaff, she will get along all right.

The lambs should be fit for market by the middle of April, and, if of decent parentage, should then weigh, the 4 quarters, from 32 to 36 pounds. A fortnight, or so, after the lambs die, the ewes should be fit to visit the butcher. We have had ewes, treated as above, weigh, dead, 12 stone, 96 lbs., within 3 weeks after the lambs were killed.

In the "French country" where the old breed of partially black sheep is kept, it would pay farmers well if three or four of them were to combine and buy a lamb-ram from a short-wool flock—Shropshire or Oxford, as Hampshires are not easily come by, though Mr. Cochrane's flock of that breed is thriving we hear. We strongly advise this, as the early lambs we saw last Easter hanging up in the butchers' shops in Montreal were fat enough, but *so small!* Some of them could not have weighed more than 15 or 16 pounds a piece, and, as we said before, the flesh looked soft and *pappy*.

*The College and the Farm.*—At last, whether from being pressed upon by the repeated incitements of the Southron, or from a dislike to being taunted as being behind the times, the southwestern counties of Scotland have started an agricultural college, and have already arranged for a course of lectures to be delivered, not lectures of a purely scientific class, as too many given elsewhere are, but both lectures and laboratory are to be of a plain and practical character.

Professor Wright, in his inaugural lecture, very