

These conditions are in no way analagous to the system employed in forcing plants under glass. It is seldom necessary to resort to artificial heating of buildings. The lambs, however, are dropped at a time of the year when the weather is cold. They must, therefore, be confined within a burn amply warm to promote rapidity of growth.

Lambs for the winter trade are never weaned, but are marketed when 9 to 14 weeks old, while still retaining the baby fat. They should be born in the fall and early winter, so as to be ready for the most favourable season of marketing which usually occurs between January 1 and the beginning of May.

#### CHARACTERISTICS.

Quality is paramount in the winter lamb. The prices that must be secured in order to furnish a satisfactory profit to the producer, render it advisable to



Lamb 40 days old weighing 48 lbs.

cater to a special trade. Therefore, it is necessary to furnish an article worthy of the highest prices. The carcass should not weigh less than 30 pounds nor more than 45 pounds. In order to reach this weight in ten weeks, which is the most desirable age for marketing winter lambs, they must make a continuous and rapid growth, thus ensuring the requisite tenderness. The lamb should be fat and plump, and should possess a well-developed leg of mutton and plenty of juicy, lean meat, besides sufficient fat to ensure an attractive carcass when dressed for the market.

#### ADVANTAGES.

Some of the advantages gained by raising winter lambs are here considered. In the first place, the lambs are prepared at a season of the year when fat work