

In castrating old rams, the entire scrotum and its contents are removed by severing it near the body. Hot pincers which sear the severed arteries and thus prevent bleeding are used in such cases. There are some who use this method in castrating lambs. An instrument especially designated for sterilizing, known as an emasculator, is employed for this purpose. In using it, the testicles are pressed upward and the lower portion of the scrotum cut off. The cords in this operation are completely severed. Swelling may follow but may be reduced by bathing with a warm disinfecting solution.

Show wethers should have a full "purse" or scrotum. If the entrance is made from the side the size of the scrotum is not diminished. Care must be taken that the opening is near the lower end so as to provide good drainage and prevent the



Method of docking lambs with pincers.

collection of pus. The testicles are removed by the use of emasculators which cut through the spermatic cord.

REASONS FOR DOCKING.

Manure collects on a long tail very readily and may become a prolific breeding place for maggots. In small lambs whose digestive tracts are unsettled manure sometimes cakes to such an extent around the tails that defecation is impossible and death results.

2. The tail is useless and the blood which promotes its growth can be better utilized elsewhere.

3. Docking is an evidence of careful shepherding. Buyers leave the neglected flocks untouched until the last.

4. In the case of ewes a long tail is sometimes an obstruction in the act of copulation.

5. Docking adds greatly to the appearance of a sheep.