

order to bring that about, the ewes must take the ram on the 21st June. Now, ewes must suckle their lambs for at least 12 weeks, and it will take them at least eight weeks to reestablish themselves after the lambs are weaned; thus, unless the ewes have lambed in the January previous, I do not see how Mr. Woodward's plan can be carried out, and it cannot be easy to pick up such early lambed ewes even in the States. Col. Curtis recommends turnips and merinoes. He would find rape and Downs more profitable.

Eight sheep are generally supposed to eat as much as one cow, but a good deal depends upon the size of both sheep and cow brought into comparison.

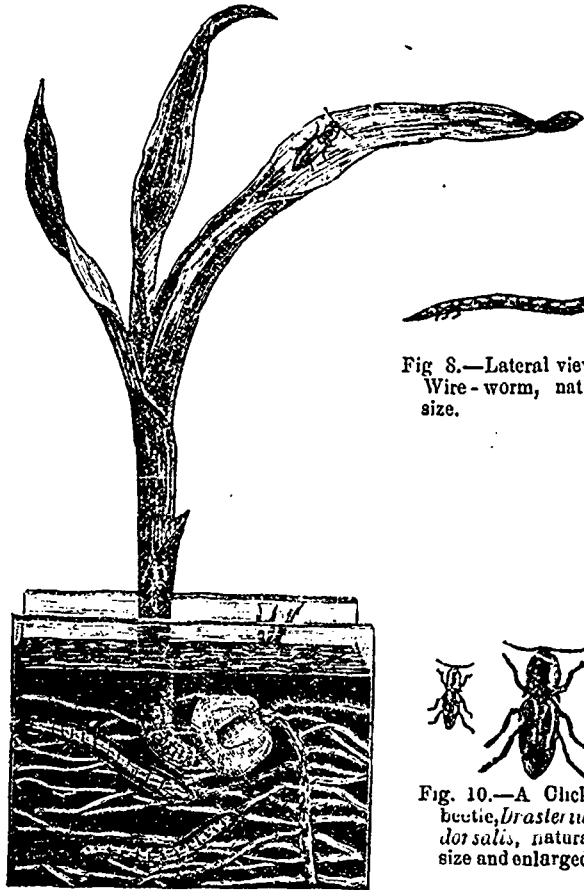


Fig. 6.—A corn-plant growing in a root-cage infested by wire-worms and click-beetles (from a specimen in the Cornell Insectary). The spotted beetle represented near the base of the plant is *Drasterius dorsalis*: that near the top of the plant is *Agriotes mancus*.

A large, roomy sheep is all very well on paper, but the most saleable sheep is one that weighs about 75 lbs. the carcass. The only reason for Southdowns selling a halfpenny a pound higher in London than the Hampshires, is that the joints of the former are more suitable to family consumption: there is no difference in the quality of the meat, but a neat, moderate-sized leg of mutton, weighing about 9 lbs., will always fetch more than one that weighs 12 lbs. or 13 lbs. In England we do not cut part of the loin in with the leg; that is the Scotch butcher's way, and the joint is still called in that country a *gigot*! The two loins form the *saddle*; and until one has tasted a saddle of well-fattened Down

wether mutton, one cannot be said to know what mutton means.

Sheep for cash.—All recognize the fact that there is no more profitable stock on the farm than sheep; and still there are many difficulties to contend with. The reason why so little mutton is eaten in this country is because there is so little good mutton produced. In England, the quality is even better than their renowned beef. Our farmers insist on feeding fine-wool sheep heavily with corn-meal and piling up the fat within their carcasses. Such meat is not fit to eat. Dogs are the greatest curse we have to withstand. If there could be some protection afforded by effective legislation, the profits that would accrue to the country would be marked. We need a tax on dogs that will rid the country of worthless ours. Sheep have their value upon every farm, even upon the strictly dairy farm, for here they enrich and benefit the pasture. I am in favor of sheep-raising always.—[George T. Powell, Columbia county, N. Y.]

I began keeping sheep, and made dog-proof pens in each pasture. A handful of oats will call the sheep there every night, and there is but one drawback. Sheep like to feed in the cold, early morning, and unless let out very early will lose a portion of this time and pleasure. But the sheep dung is saved and can be put where it is desired, and no piece is over-manured. There is no way in which a farmer can get so much money in proportion to the labor expended as with sheep. In South America, men go out and stay with the flock, taking care of them each day. As a result wool can be sold at 6¢ profitably. As a consequence of this cheap foreign production of wool we are forced to raise mutton for our profits. For this we need a large, roomy sheep with quantities of lean meat. Such an animal will take on the fat in such a way that the meat will be marbled, or the fat and lean mixed. Hundreds of finely-fed carcasses are annually sold in New York city for the highest prices. The best brings the highest price, and other mutton the very lowest. The money is what we are after. A lamb is worth more at four months old than at any time afterward.

Secretary J. S. Woodward buys ewes in July, turns them out and begins at once to feed them highly to stimulate them to come in heat early. They are bred at once to mutton rams and drop their lambs in November, when they are put in a barn basement that is dry and well-ventilated and the dams sheared. The temperature is kept uniform and the lambs are given the best treatment to force their development. Some of the lambs sell in January and the others in February and March at \$7 to \$15 each. He then carefully and persistently forces the ewes with food and sells them in April and May at the best prices which mutton brings in all the year. If we want money from our sheep we must follow his example so far as results are concerned. (1)—[James Wood, Westchester county, N. Y.]

Every farmer should have a flock. The Merino is better adapted to the rigors of our climate than any other breed. We must cross them with the mutton breeds, and the product will lay on fat and please and pay their owners. Again, if we make sheep pay we must raise crops to feed them on. Raise turnips, and feed your mutton to your family, selling any surplus.—[Col. F. D. Curtis of Kirby Homestead.]

Sheep or Cows.—How many sheep will be equal to nine

(1) Good gracious! We cannot all rear early house-lambs, any more than we can all go into dairying. A. R. J. F.