

York State society is co-operating with the American Geographical and Statistical society, to forward the object.

CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN EXHIBITIONS.

Delegates were appointed to attend the International Exhibition at Bergen, Norway, August 1st to Sept. 16th, the International Exhibition at Cologne, and the Agricultural Exhibition, Stettin, Prussia.

BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Breeders' Association of thorough bred cattle is to meet at Albany, on the second Wednesday of February, 1866.

FAIR OF THE SHEEP BREEDERS' AND WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

This fair was held on the 9th and 10th May. The sheep were divided into five classes:—1. American Merinos; 2. Fine Merinos; 3. Delaine Merinos; 4. Long Woolled Sheep; 5. Middle Woolled Sheep. A special prize of \$50 was given for the fleece shorn on the grounds, of a year's growth, which, on being cleansed by the manufacturer, yielded the greatest weight of wool in proportion to the live weight of the sheep.

MAINE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The legislature of Maine has passed a bill for an agricultural college, by a large majority, and officers have been appointed.

SIEMPRE VIVA.

The plant so graphically described as covering with its mossy verdure the rocks on the mountain slopes of Mexico, and which has the peculiar property of curling up into a brown ball, and reviving again in all its freshness on the application of moisture, is no doubt the *Lycopodium squamatum* of botanists, called also *Selaginella convoluta*.

JESSIE WILLIAMS, INVENTOR OF CHEESE FACTORIES.

Jessie Williams, of Rome, Oneida county, was the originator of the cheese dairy system, which has well nigh become a mania in some parts of the United States and Canada. The mania will do good; there will be some disappointments; but cheese manufacture will be established on a satisfactory footing. Williams was born in 1798, and died in December last. It was in 1850 that he first conceived the idea of a cheese factory, to which farmers would bring their milk.

Communications.

BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF COTSWOLD AND LEICESTER SHEEP.

BY HENRY E. DECIE, ESQ.

Cotswold and Leicester being the best breeds of long wool sheep, and South Down and Cheviot of short wool, I will begin my remarks by pointing out the principal characteristics of each and the reasons which should guide the purchaser in selecting either one or the other.

The Long Wool breed are remarkable for their weight of mutton and of fleece. There are many flocks in England which average at three years old 40 lbs. per quarter, and shear ten pounds of wool; but to obtain such results, they require high keep; in this country 6 lbs wool and 25 lbs. mutton per quarter would be a good average, and can easily be attained in the best farming districts in the Province.

South Downs are much smaller in size and yield a much lighter fleece; 4 lbs. of wool and 16 lbs. of mutton per quarter, would be a good average for them, but South Down will fatten upon rough and poor pasture that would be quite inadequate to sustain either Cotswolds or Leicesters, and they are excellent walkers travelling long distances to market, without losing condition, whereas the others fall away rapidly on a journey.

Agricultural Societies in making their selection should be guided by their locality; if their pastures are good and the markets near at hand, the Long Wools are the most profitable; but if their country is hilly and their pastures poor with a long way to walk to market, they should choose the South Downs.

No Long Wool Rams should be used till they are two shear, as before that they are not fully matured, and should never be put to more than sixty ewes, as using a ram before he is full grown or giving him too many ewes will prevent his stock from being as good as he is.

Agricultural Societies when they purchase lambs and shearling rams should feed them well until they are two shear. they will then serve 60 ewes each year for 8 years, and will add one dollar at least to the value of each lamb.

Ewes reaching maturity earlier may be put to the ram as shearling, but should be kept separate from the older ewes and receive extra keep during the winter.

Lambs that are born between the 15th March and the 15th April should be weaned by the 15th of August, and put on the best after grass; those intended for rams should get a little grain twice a day, increasing as the pasture falls off until the turnips or other green crops are

fit for use, of which they should receive as much as they can eat with hay during the winter.

Shearling and ram lambs can be wintered together, and shearling and ewe lambs, the whole being well and liberally fed upon turnips and hay; with such treatment they will grow faster during the winter than the summer, and the wool will more than pay for their keep.

The breeding ewes after weaning, should be put for a few days on short pasture, to allow their milk to dry off, and then put on good grass to allow them to get in good condition before putting them to the ram, prior to which all inferior sheep, and any not equal to the average of the flock, and those over 7 years should be separated, and the best shearlings put in their places, those weeded out can be fattened for the butcher; the ewes should be separated from the ram after being with him one month, and all ewes not in lamb then should be fattened the following summer. The advantage of leaving the ram only one month with the ewes is that the lambs at weaning time will be all the same size, and an even lot of lambs will look better and bring a higher price than an uneven lot, although the uneven lot may be a good deal heavier on the whole. As soon as the ram is taken away the whole flock should be dipped in a mixture for killing ticks. (I use 2 lbs. arsenic, 2 lbs. potash, and a pail of soft soap, put in hog-head of water, to every 50 sheep, and immerse every part except their head.) It will be dangerous to put it off later than the middle of November, for pregnant ewes should be handled as little as possible; the old ewes should then be put on moderate keep until after lambing, just sufficient to keep them in healthy condition, and not check the growth of wool.

For this country, from the middle of October to the middle of November I think is the best time for putting ewes to the ram, they will then lamb during March and April when they are round the barn, and there is plenty of time to look after them, and by feeding the ewes on turnips the lambs will grow as fast as at any time of the year; the ewe after lambing should be confined for a few days until the lamb gains strength, after that they can be allowed to go in and out whenever they please, and will not mind the cold in the least, and when put on pasture in May will be beyond the reach of foxes or ravens.

The whole flock should be sheared from the middle to the end of May, first washing them clean in running water, and shearing a few days after when the wool is dry.

Agricultural Societies wishing to improve their sheep can do it by purchasing 2 two shear rams, not akin to each other,