

comfortable operation for both parties. In cases where no frame is at hand, leave sheep on end as it was in doing neck and front, and clip right around back. If done carefully and not in too large a clip to each round, it will leave quite a nice job. Either of these methods keeps the sheep reasonably comfortable and prevents much struggling.

**Doing up Fleece.**—In first place, take off all dirty wool and any cotted portions, because, if buyer does this for you he will perhaps not use so much economy as you might, then spread the fleece on a clean place, the part that was next the sheep down; turn in the edges until it is about eighteen inches wide (or less in a small fleece), then start to roll at tail, and keep the roll tidy and compact; when neck is reached twist the neck piece into a rope to tie around the bundle, and fasten the end securely. If well done it will stand a good deal of handling without coming undone, and if well washed and kept clean from burs, chaff, &c., will present quite a tempting appearance to a buyer, which means money every time. Nothing pays better than a real good finish, in almost every marketable product.

**Marketing.**—Many farmers have fine and coarse wool, and in taking to market it is better to keep each grade separate, so that you will get proper price for quality

## THE WOOL CROP.

By "Flockmaster."

By the time the May 15th *Advocate* reaches its readers, most of the high-class, pure-bred flocks, especially all yearlings and rams, will have been deprived on their fleece. The owners of such flocks understand their work well enough, and are usually careful enough about it, to require no further instruction, but to many of the less particular sheep farmers a word may not be out of place. In the rush of seeding, planting, &c., the poor sheep is too often allowed to go out upon the new grass without being docked, and before a week many of them are carrying a disgusting load, which only a very strong-stomached lamb will approach to take nourishment. This is one of several neglects in connection with the care of wool.

**Washing.**—When there is a running stream within a mile or two, a few of the neighbors club together to hold a sheep washing, which is usually done in a rough, careless style, and the wet flocks are driven home along a dusty road, arriving there in little cleaner condition than they left it; but the sheep have been "washed," which insures a better price per pound for the wool than if they had not passed through this trying ordeal. Now, is sheep-washing an advantage? Yes; if properly done, in a suitable place. There is no more suitable place than in a running stream, which can be jammed about waist deep, so that the sheep cannot touch the bottom with their feet. The flock should be penned in a yard beside the water, and one man should remain among them to hand the sheep to the washer. There is no need of throwing them in over head, and pulling them about as though they had no feelings. The sheep is one of the most timid of animals, and can be seriously injured by rough, careless handling in water. In washing, the wool should be taken in handfuls and squeezed, and moved until the water leaves every part of the fleece clean. The animal should then

be taken to an easy landing-slope, and helped out upon the green grass, where it will drip dry enough to walk home comfortably. In this walk care should be taken to keep them on the side, walking quietly, out of the dust. They should be kept in a clean grass field up to shearing time, which should not be done until from a week to ten days following, so that the yolk will have time to rise anew to make the shears run nicely, and also give the wool a better feel, and a trifle more honest weight.

If there is no convenient means of washing the sheep, the wool can be taken off in creditable condition by removing all burs, chaff, tag locks, &c., before commencing to clip. Because a certain dockage is made for unwashed wool, there is no excuse for allowing filthy locks to remain in the fleece. If a buyer is reasonable he will pay more for clean, unwashed wool than for filthy stuff; at least this has been my experience.

**Shearing.**—Sheep should always be brought in from the pasture and housed on clean straw the night before they are to be clipped. There is then much less danger of hurting them, and they will not be in danger of being rained upon, which will hinder the shearing until they have become dry. A very suitable place to shear is a clean, airy barn-floor or the like. Some shearers use a platform about two or more feet high, so that the back of the shearer has not to be bent so much in clipping. Whether on a floor or platform, it is well to make a cushion to rest the sheep upon, by tacking an old piece of carpet or sacking over a layer of straw or hay; this will tend to keep the sheep quieter, and give the shearer more comfort. Occasionally one sees a man shearing without fastening the legs of the animal operated upon. Unless sheep shorn in this free condition are exceptionally quiet, the fleece usually has to be gathered up from different parts of the surrounding and the shearer loses his temper many times in a day. It is a much better plan to strap the fore and hind feet of the under side of the sheep together; that is, while the right side is being shorn, the left legs should be tied, and vice versa.

**Tying Fleece.**—When the fleece is off it must be tied up in some fashion, and the neater this is done the less room it will take in storing, hauling, or shipping to market, and the better will it suit the eye of a dealer. I have found it quite satisfactory to spread the fleece inside down on a clean floor, then gather all the ribs and place them upon it, next, turn in the sides and ends, laying them flat until the fleece has the form of a strip from twenty to twenty-four inches wide, and almost as long as when first laid down. Now, commence at the tail end coil up until the whole fleece is in the form of a light, compact bundle. If preferred, a wool rope can be twisted out from the fleece to wind round and bind it together, or, as binder-cord is so cheap, it may be used, putting it around endwise and sidewise, as a parcel of sugar is tied up.

**Marketing.**—In almost every town and village there is some one who buys wool, paying so much for washed, and so much for unwashed but too often regardless of quality or condition. The careful wool grower does well to avoid that individual, and look round for some one who can appreciate superior wool well put up, and who will be willing to pay a little more for what suits his fancy than for inferior or ragged fleeces. It is well to sell direct to a manufacturer, or to a reputable

dealer, who appreciates the merits of a shipment, and will pay for it according to its value.

As soon as shearing is over, take or send him a fair, average sample of your wool in a letter, mentioning the breed, and you will soon receive his quotation in return.

## SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

IN THE STOCKMAN of May 9, 1895, is an article by W. M. Barnum on "Build up the Flock," in which this language is used: "A sheep may be fed for one-seventh of the food that an ox requires, and will make a growth of nearly three-quarters of a pound a day for the first 280 days of its life. And for the next 600 will put on a half pound a day." We should like to have some of that kind of sheep in Ohio. We have never seen any sheep in Ohio that would weight 510 pounds. That kind of a sheep ought to bring 5 cents a pound which would be \$25.50 for a sheep, or \$178.50 for 7 sheep. We, in Ohio, would like to know the name of that breed of sheep, and if we could get any of them if we would go to Colorado. I wonder if W. M. Barnum is any relation to P. T. Barnum W. E. SAMPSON.

Harrison county, O.

The type-setting machine and the proofreader are doubtless responsible for this "mix." We can't tell just what Mr. B. did mean to say, his manuscript not having been preserved, and refer the matter to him for correction.

## ABOUT SHEEP AND LAMBS.

I was interested in Mr. McCann's account of his pet sheep picking out and eating bitter weeds, as I have observed similarly. Such things are eaten by these animals for their health. If they can get all they want and the kinds they require, they will not be troubled with internal parasites; or if, in the absence of bitter weeds, they can have access to fresh pine boughs both winter and summer. The sheep at the South generally roam at large, and such are always free from internal parasites. It is natural for sheep to desire these correctives or preventives. Deprived of them on our cultivated fields, internal parasites ensue to sicken and destroy. They were not known in this country until the English sheep brought them from the almost weedless fields of Great Britain.

I also note with much interest in the same issue (April 25) what Mr. Woodward says in regard to hothouse lambs, the price he got for his the season just past, which was only an average of \$5 a head. I am interested in this, not because I am in the business of growing lambs, for I am out of it now, but because the last few years I have specially instructed several, in various states, how to grow them and when to sell. As would be natural, they report to me frequently. All agree that they got \$6.50 for their best; but none of them reported the least price. As \$6 and \$6.50 were the prices growers in my county received, and as all were sold in New-York City, I had concluded my friends were getting as good prices as this stock brought.

But from recent developments I have become satisfied that there is "an African in the paling" in New-York, and that this sable individual is none other than a combination of dealers

in the city to depress prices and keep them down for selfish purposes. I receive three New York City papers, but none of them seem to report these lambs. I also receive two Boston papers, and both of them notice hothouse lambs, and usually agree in prices. About the first of March one of them had a market report from a correspondent located in New-York. He reported the hothouse lambs bringing \$10 @ 12, that hindquarters retailed at \$4 each and forequarters at \$3.25 each. This was the only New-York report I saw. At the same time the Boston market was quoted at \$9 @ 10. As the season advanced prices gradually declined to \$8 @ 9 and the last quotation, on April 13, was \$7 @ 8. These facts certainly give room for suspicion that "something is rotten in Denmark." Added to this, a person in Ohio who attempted last winter to grow these lambs for the first time, did not get his stable warm enough and consequently could not shear his ewes. He provided neither silage nor roots for necessary succulence; but depended upon bran and water for that. His lambs had the scours badly and did not do well, of course, yet he shipped to these same parties and received as much for his lambs as anybody. As another Ohio correspondent, who grows lambs correctly, said: "If this is the case, there is no more use in taking pains to grow lambs right." And then he added: "But even should the price keep down where it is I shall continue to grow lambs in the new way because I like it best. The care of lambs comes in winter when I have nothing else to do. There is no dirty wool to bother lambs when nursing, no ticks to trouble either ewes or lambs, and when spring opens for work both sheep and lambs are off my hands." But this eating up the lion's share of the profits at the New-York end must be circumvented. I have a friend in the city who has promised to investigate us opportunity may occur. GALEN WILSON.

## MUTTON PRODUCTION.

Mutton production has been recently reduced to an art. Forty years ago it was an item of little importance in the skill of the sheep breeder of that time. Wool was the all-absorbing theme with this class of farmers, and a sheep of the conformation for the production of the finest and heaviest fleece was indeed to be envied by the owner of a less pretentious one. While Americans and the French were improving their sheep along lines of wool production England was doing what it could along the line of mutton production. The combination sheep struck this country but was considered of little value among the better and more skillful breeders. Mutton was not very popular in the markets of America, and it was not to be wondered at why this was so, when we learn that a sheep was bred for wool and was made to do service as a wool producer till its age precluded its ever making even a poor class of mutton. A sheep was made to do duty as a wool producer till its teeth began to drop, and it was sent to the market in a half-fatted condition. Here we had age combined with poor quality to please the palate of the mutton eater, and he was so well pleased that the next time he went to the market for meat he purchased something else.

The man who has had a taste of spring lamb in all its sweetness, like the sheep-killing dog, never forgets it,