

SHEEP AND SWINE.

SHEEP-WASHING AT THE MODEL FARM.

The accompanying illustration makes, it must be owned, a very lively picture of a scene embodying a little of the poetry of farming, along with some of its prose. Sheep-washing is a kind of holiday affair, and has an element of play in it which the boys like. But to be in the water all day up to the hips, especially in a stream like the Speed, which is mainly fed by springs, has more cold than warm comfort in it, and handling the struggling animals involves no little work. The gentleman in the picture with "billicock" hat on his head, and a walking-cane in his hand, is the Professor, and he is in a "Brown" study as to the pros and cons of the operation. He has come to the conclusion that, on the whole, sheep-washing does not pay, and that so long as the discrimination between washed and unwashed wool con-

market is in favour of the seller and against the buyer.

"In illustration of the farmer's position, take our current year's sales of wool—all unwashed, of course:—

Long wool—Leicester, Cotswold, and Canadian, 1,117 lbs., at 15 cents per lb.....	\$167 55
Medium—Oxford Down, 180 lbs., at 18 cents per lb.....	23 40
Short—Southdown, Southdown grade, and Shropshire Down, 242 lbs., at 21 cents per lb.....	60 82

Total unwashed price..... \$241 77

"Had this wool been washed it would have weighed only 745, 97, and 162 lbs. respectively, and realized as follows:—

Long..... 745 lbs., at 23 cents per lb.....	\$171 85
Medium..... 97 " 27 "	26 19
Short..... 162 " 82 "	51 84

Total washed price..... \$249 89

"What does the manufacturer say to this? Where is the farmer's profit in washing wool? Where anything to meet his time and expenses, in addition to risk of a death or two among a

avoid, if possible. The sheep, too, are liable to take cold from standing and lying in their wet clothes, and they get no whiskey or other preventive of this result. If the gain be so small, only about three per cent., it certainly does not pay for the trouble, let alone the inconvenience, discomfort, and risk to man and beast.

BLIND STAGGERS IN PIGS.

Diseases of the hog have engaged the attention of the scientific less than those of any other of our domestic animals, and as a consequence it is more difficult to give a satisfactory answer to questions respecting their ailments. Of all our domestic animals swine are the most liable to disease, partly because they are too often kept in a dirty, filthy condition, until, in fact, they are commonly considered, though erroneously, filthy animals. When allowed to roam at large in hot weather, hogs are sometimes found wallowing in mud-puddles. This operation is indulged in for



SHEEP-WASHING AT THE ONTARIO EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

(Gow's Dam on River Speed.)

tinues as at present, the washing may as well be dispensed with. The Professor's reasonings, figures, and conclusion are embodied in the following extract from his last annual report, under the heading, "The Washing of Wool:—

"There are two opinions on the question of profit to the farmer in washing sheep before shearing. All quotations of prices are by the pound of sixteen ounces, *washed*, and when the farmer takes his wool to market unwashed he receives *one-third* less. Example: in the place of thirty he receives twenty cents, because, as the purchaser says, there is fully a difference of one-third in weight.

"We have inquired into this, and have ourselves tested the point of difference in weight between washed and unwashed wool. There is, for all practical purposes, just one-third difference, with a slight tendency in favour of unwashed—that is, as the sheep, after washing, are allowed to dry and re-yolk for about two weeks, the fleeces gather dirt, and are not, properly speaking, clean of all sand and soil, so that the real result on the

large number in a river or pond? There can be no desire to discourage the washing of sheep before clipping, but the advantage to the farmer must be evident. If the manufacturer says he won't buy unwashed at any price, then matters would be changed; but so long as the present one-third difference holds, the farmer has clearly the advantage in not washing."

Besides the considerations presented in the foregoing extract, there are others which should not be wholly overlooked. On the score of humanity it is desirable to dispense with this operation. The sheep is a gentle and timid animal, and however carefully the process of washing is performed there will be not a little rough handling perpetrated. Plunging it into an element so foreign to its nature as water, is a rude shock, the occasional immersion of the head gives a fright, and the wool-pulling is painful. The washers do their work at the risk of colds and rheumatisms. As a precaution against these they are tempted to take stiff doses of whiskey, the use of which, even medicinally, it is desirable to

the purpose of cooling their bodies. The hog does not sweat, and consequently does not enjoy the benefits of this natural cooling process, but substitutes the moisture of the puddle to cool his heated body. On this account it endures with a degree of impunity the filth in which it is frequently compelled to wallow. The manner in which hogs are fed and the loads of fat they are forced to carry are all productive of diseased stomachs and apoplectic conditions of the brain. A close examination of the pig will show on the inside of the fore legs, just below the knee, some small holes which are known as issues, and out of which is thrown much of the effete matter of the animal. If these openings become stopped, then disease is the consequence. When this is known, it is easy to understand how disease may attack the animal, and also to learn that an approved remedy is in washing the pig and providing a clean bed. Cutting the skin of the head open and applying salt, causing it to bleed freely, has relieved the brain from the pressure of blood, and cured the animal of the blind staggers. This