

the lambs fell chiefly in January and February. In most respects the management thus far is the same now; only as the downs are generally broken up, the flocks now depend chiefly on the turnip crop in winter, with a liberal allowance of hay. The flocks are kept in spring and summer in water-meadows for early food, and on a succession of forage crops with, in recent times, a liberal allowance of cake for the lambs in those farms where the plan of selling them fat is pursued. They are constantly kept within hurdles. Mr. Squarey gives statistics showing that, in the case of some flocks in the neighbourhood of Salisbury numbering 10,000, the yield of lambs was 91 per cent.; mortality of ewes 5 per cent., of tegs 3 per cent. per annum. The yield of lambs is now certainly larger, owing probably to higher feeding at the time of coupling.

Mr Squarey thinks that the improvement of the breed together with the improved farming of the south-western district, to which this article has been devoted, have increased the production of wool and mutton by at least 50 per cent., as compared with the end of the last century.

H. E.

Shorthorns as milch-cows. — The periodical, "Herds and Flocks," has the following in its issue of the 1st inst. "In addition to what we said last year in regard to the milking qualities of shorthorns, it is of interest to note that the first and second prizes at the London Dairy-show of 1888 were taken by pure-bred shorthorns." This is, I am obliged to state, an error. The pure-bred, that is pedigreed shorthorns exhibited were about as bad milkers as one often sees, gaining only a second prize. The cows that took the first and second prizes were *dairy shorthorns*, i. e. very high grade cattle, though not admissible to the herd-book.

Rearing calves.—A breeder of cattle gives, in the New-

York Tribune, his mode of treating calves as follows:

"Several years' experience has given me a successful system of procedure in calf raising. They are taken from the cows at two days of age, and never before, because it is natural for them to draw the first milk to cleanse the system of congenital waste matter. If taken from the cow as soon as dropped they do not get the benefit of this wise provision of Nature, for it requires a day or more to teach them to drink. They are

given about 2½ quarts freshly drawn milk twice a day for ten days, and then for a week fresh milk once a day and skim milk once. After that the ration twice a day is 2 quarts sweet skim-milk and 1 quart of a strong decoction of clover hay added, given warm a month; and then the ration is gradually cooled; meantime they have a few oats once a day and hay constantly. They can be gradually weaned from the milk at three months of age if they have fresh grass, but will do the better the longer the milk feeding is continued. Wheat bran should never be given, for it tends to produce scours. If they have access to pure drinking water only and what hay and salt they will eat besides their grass feed, they never will be troubled with unnatural looseness of the bowels. When first turned out it should be in a small enclosure, with much shade, for they are liable to run too much and to get sun-struck. Those who avail themselves of this opportunity to halter-break the juvenile bovines will accomplish a good purpose."

In my opinion, it is a great mistake to

allow the mother to suckle her calf at all, unless in the case of a heifer's first calf, in which case the constant dragging at the teats for three months, or so, may possibly increase their, the teats', size. But, as a rule, I would never allow the calf to remain with its dam for five seconds after it is dropped. Take it away at once, holding it by both hind- and fore-legs; cover it up with plenty of the softest straw in a



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