

"cossies," as they are called, are always a bore, blating about, and running after every one they see, into the house, and, in some cases, getting into the garden, and doing all kinds of mischief. They should go to the butcher as soon as they are fit.

As to the castration of the male lambs, there is a great difference of opinion. The Sussex men cut theirs at a fortnight or three week old. The Hampshire men, on the other hand, who prefer a strong, masculine animal, postpone the operation till the lambs are four months old. The tail, however, in both cases, is docked as soon as the young one has strength to bear it. At whatever age castration is performed, due, mild weather should be chosen for it. We regret to say that it is too much the custom of those who send early lamb to the Montreal market not to castrate the males. It may seem unnecessary to emasculate them at the age they are killed, but there is a certain reddish look about the meat, called by London butchers "foxiness," which is unmistakable, and injures the flavour amazingly.

should in this, as in all other cases of flying, be quite hot, very hot, and at least two inches deep in the pan. (1)

Of course, the lambs with their dams will, if you really meant sheep-keeping as it ought to be done, be put on the best grass your farm affords, as soon as possible after the snow goes. This must carry them till the sown crops, rape, vetches, &c., are ready to take them. Of these sown crops we have spoken so lately, that we need not be repeated. But there is one thing we should like to impress upon you very strongly, and that is, a check to the improvement of the young lamb is more difficult to remedy, than a check to any of the other young animals on the farm. A lamb never recovers from a check, whereas a calf can, by care and attention, be pretty well restored, and so can a colt.

Lambs are troubled with few diseases as long as they are on the milk. A change from a barren pasture to a luxuriant bite of grass will sometimes produce diarrhoea. A dose of Epsom salt, say, half an ounce, with a little ginger to soothe the bowels, will com-

monly settle the question. Constiveness, on the other hand, rarely affects lambs running with their dams, and a slight aperitive will cure that complaint. Care should be taken, especially in a wooded country, to keep all the parts near the tail in a perfect state of cleanliness; the fly will play mischief with the flock, if this is not looked to. In our best managed flocks, just before weaning time, the wool growing between the "thighs," is shorn off, and the lambs are dipped in one of the compositions set forth for that purpose, of which we shall have more to say presently. This treatment generally renders them pretty safe for the summer, but in spite of all, a want of frequent inspection will too often allow the poor things to be attacked by maggots, and deaths, which might be avoided, occur.

"Weaning."—Lambs are usually

weaned at from three to four months old. It seems a simple thing enough to separate a lamb from its dam, and at first sight, it would appear there could not be any doubt about the way to do it. But there are, as usual, two ways, one of which is right. For example: suppose the ewes and lambs are in a field, and you take the lambs away from their mothers into a fresh place; a pretty row there will be! The lambs, utterly unacquainted with their new home, will go mooning about all over the place, baa-ing, and reducing their flesh, in search for their dams and their familiar corners. It will be some days before they settle. Whereas, if, after remaining for a week or so in the same field, the ewes are removed out of sight and hearing, the lambs, thoroughly accustomed to their habitat, will soon quiet down, and feed away as if nothing had happened to disturb them. By this time, too, many of the ewes, from loss or scantiness of milk, have weaned their lambs, who have been taught to depend upon grass &c. for their food, and the sight of these, feeding away merrily, tends

to soothe and tranquilise the minds of the others. Interesting little things! How we wish we had a couple of hundred to look after, now!

If you lamb down early, you must wean early, or else there will not be time for the ewes to recover their condition before their hard time comes again. Fancy, that in Scotland, even in our time, the ewes were milked after the lambs were weaned! That is over, at all events, but care should be taken to look after any ewe that, from lambing late or any other cause, may have a flush of milk upon her after weaning time. She should, in this case, be dried off as carefully as a cow, and milked at intervals of 12 hours, then 24 hours, 36 hours &c.; and I need not say that the less succulent her food is the sooner the desired end will be secured. The danger is that the teats will be plugged up with cheesy matter. After a fortnight's separation, the lambs may, if desired, be returned to the ewe-flock; all parental and filial instinct will be extinct by that time.

We do not grow "sainfoin" in this country. It would do well on any of the calcareous soils (no where else, though,) and there is nothing so good for weaning lambs. We never saw them

scour on it, and we have seen large numbers suffering from diarrhoea (on red clover), completely cured by a few days sojourn on this valuable plant.

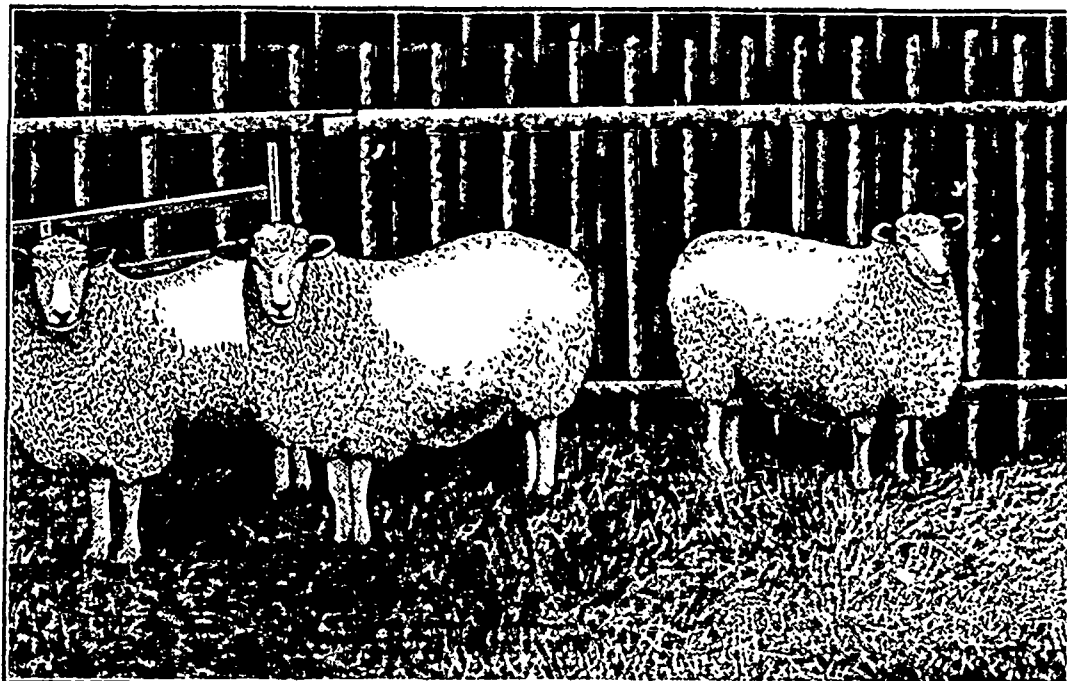
Our best flock-masters dip their sheep twice a year—at least they dip the lambs at shearing time, and the whole flock in the autumn. Bigg's composition was the most popular sheep-dip, when we were a breeder. We used it regularly for years and may be trusted when we say that no sheep of ours was ever troubled with scab or tick as long as we had a flock. It is poisonous, though, and therefore care must be taken that no animal drinks it. The sheep is dipped in a tub containing a solution of the stuff in water, and, when thoroughly soaked, the patient is placed on a strainer, so constructed that the liquid squeezed from the wool runs back again into the tub. As a precaution, every sheep bought for any purpose should be dipped before it joins the flock already on the farm.

But there is a cheaper form of sheep-dip that will, we doubt not, answer all purposes. For every twenty sheep, take two lbs of tobacco stems and a gallon of water, boiling them gently for at least an hour; to this add 2 lbs of soft soap, 2 ounces of flour of sulphur, and a wine glass of spirits of tar. Dilute this plentifully (experience must be your guide), and treat the sheep as above described.

We forget to mention that, in England, when the fly is troublesome to the heads of the sheep, we put a sort of cap, tied under the ears before and behind, over the skull. Sheep will butt at each, and if a place is skinned, the fly attacks it at once and drives the poor brute crazy. Note—never put a cap on a sore head, the fly is sure to get under it, and you can't see the damage till too late to remedy it.

Fortunately for us, that dire disease the foot-rot has never been seen here; though some newly imported sheep (Shropshire Downs) were once sold at Chicago, which, a few days after, were found to be affected. A pretty row the purchaser made in the agricultural press about it! The seller, about as honest a man as they make them, was called all sorts of names, as if he could have told by intuition that the disease was incubating. We don't see why short-wools should be more afflicted with this pest than long-wools, but with all our love for them, they certainly are, and very troublesome it is to cure it. It takes between the claws of the hoof, and gradually eats its way, under the horn, upwards. We wonder that where sheep are kept, in winter and early spring, on damp straw, the disease does not show itself, even here. For us, we should prefer sheep lying on boards, with intervals of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch between, to letting them tread a mass of damp straw into a puddle. The boards should be swept down twice a day, the manure collected, and there could not be a better vehicle to carry bone-dust or superphosphate with it to the turnip crop. Of course, there must be a space of two or three feet between the boards and the ground. If you think the sheep won't like so hard a bed, watch them in the summer, and you will find that they will, if they can, always select the road for their place of repose. Should you fear a loss of the valuable urine, nothing easier than to throw a few bushels of spent tan-bark, or rubbish of any sort to absorb it.

But to cure the foot-rot! Well, we have done it with our own hands, and, though it takes time and trouble, we



KENT OR ROMNEY MARSH EWES.

The Property of Mr. G. W. Finn, Westwood Court, Faversham. Winners of First Prizes.

Lambs for this purpose should be castrated at 10 days old.

Our English flock-masters dock their lambs' tails much shorter than is generally done here; and, we think, with reason. The short dock certainly gives squareness to the hind quarters, and as the real reason for docking is to keep the sheep clear from filth and from the fly, which lays eggs which turn to maggots, the shorter the tail, in moderation, the better. The third joint is about the place.

Don't be afraid of the ewe's of blood after docking. They will soon stop, as general rule, and if not, a string tied round the tail will speedily arrest the flow.

If you do leave your lambs uncastrated till they are a few months old, you will have a chance of tasting that most delicious dish, delicately called in Hampshire "Lambs Fry". Clean and split the testicles, but don't wash them; dry them thoroughly with a cloth, dip them first in egg, and then in fine, dry bread-crumbs, mixed with dried and well chopped parsley, summer savory, chervil, lemon thyme, and the merest scrape of nutmeg, and fry them "of a beautiful brown", as Mrs Rundell says, in plenty of lard. The lard