

economical, as one ram is then equal to upwards of fifty ewes, thereby saving the expense of hiring or purchasing a second ram where that number of ewes are kept. It is essential that the ewes should be marked as they take the ram, in order that they may be housed and have the attention of the shepherd in succession during the lambing season. It is requisite that the ewes should receive a liberal allowance of nutritive food when some weeks advanced in pregnancy, which tends to develop the fetus, in which case strong and healthy lambs generally follow. When the lambing season arrives, those ewes which have to lamb first should receive close attention. The safest plan is to house them every evening, and to visit them at intervals of half an hour or so. In all cases of difficult parturition, allow plenty of time, some hours after the first symptoms, and never attempt, except in rare instances, to extract a lamb without having first put it into position, which must be done with judgment, caution and patience. In all cases where handling has been resorted to, anoint with black oil or other antiseptic, to prevent gangrene or mortification. Should the ewe exhibit symptoms of debility, give gruel with brandy. In favourable weather docking and castration may be performed about the third day after birth, after which housing is essential for two or three nights, when the animals may be turned away altogether, taking care to apply a little paint to the necks of all twin lambs, which not only serves as a safeguard against foxes, but enables the shepherd to recognise them up to shearing. If not placed in fresh pastures, the ewes with pairs should be allowed artificial food, say a mixture of rape cake, malt-cake, oats, &c., with a little condiment added, all of which increase the yield of milk. I would here urge the indispensability of sheep having access to water. The lambs having acquired a taste for cake, &c., through the medium of the dam's milk, soon begin to nibble it. When they take it more freely, the ewes should be deprived of it, by placing it in water-proof troughs, which can now be had at a moderate price, made of corrugated galvanized iron. These are placed in an enclosure, in the fence of which is inserted a hurdle which will admit the lambs only. In the beginning of June the lambs are weaned and put on the best pasture the farm affords, for at this stage the flock owner finds great difficulty to keep them progressing, and a considerable loss of flesh is the result if not well cared for. Early turnips or rape should be provided and a few old sheep should accompany the lambs, to teach them to eat the turnips more readily. When they eat with avidity, the roots should be cut at once, and continued throughout the season. For this purpose Gardner's cutter is the best.

"If lambs are intended for early maturity, say to come out fat in February or March, it

is advisable to draw out the she-hoggets which are intended for breeding purposes, as forcing when young does not tend to their subsequent well being. Ewes intended to be draughted, should be marked soon after lambing, and the lambs weaned early, so that the ewes may be fatted for market. All sheep during summer should be allowed frequent change of pasturage, especially if laid thick upon the ground. Most farmers in this part of the country, I think, clip much too early, for, unless sheep are intended to be slaughtered immediately, clipping in the generality of seasons, is attended with an enormous sacrifice, more especially in the cases of ewes giving suck. Why should we in this comparatively cold climate shear our flocks, some weeks before south county farmers? The thousands of sheep sacrificed by the folly of early clipping in 1860, ought at once to have convinced us all that by premature shearing there is a chance of losing a great deal without the probability of gain. Dipping as soon after clipping as convenient is commendable, as it destroys the tick and the other filth; and when the flies become troublesome, a frequent sprinkling of water, in which sulphur and spirits of tar have been mixed, tends to ward off the flies, and contributes much to the comfort of the flock. I think, however, a second dipping takes weight out of the fleece, which is not easily restored. I would sooner recommend a light smearing in autumn, but the salve wants mixing and applying with judgment, so as not to injure the fleece in the slightest degree."

WASHING AND SMEARING SHEEP.

MR. EDITOR, SIR:—In your *Agriculturist*, the number for July, I see an article on wool-growing, which I think is well worth the attention of all keepers of sheep.

In the first place, wool is a very beneficial crop, and if proper attention be paid to that production, it will return a per centage worth notice.

In the second place, as there seems to be a difference of opinion at present, as to whether wool should be washed or not, (before taken from the sheep), should the latter prevail, it behoves all wool growers to have their wool in as good a marketable state as possible when shorn, and especially free from what is termed here "matted fleeces." The cause of which is either from sickness, or want of proper care and attention, as stated in the articles above mentioned.

For the last three years I have adopted the old English method of dressing sheep for the ticks, and have used washes and ointment, both with beneficial results; but must give a decided preference to the latter, as you can use it in almost all seasons.

I will therefore, Mr. Editor, give you the receipts, if you can find a corner in your val-