

3. That the stock to be tested be kept under satisfactory sanitary conditions, especially as regards space, light, and ventilation.

*Sheep.*—We see, to our great delight, that many of our exchanges, both of Canadian and United States origin, are doing their best to induce farmers to “keep more sheep.” It is a pity that such communications as that from Mr. McKerrow, in “Farm, Field, and Fireside,” sensibly enough conceived in many parts, should be depreciated in value by quotations such as the following :

A small or moderate sized flock will glean a good living most of the year from foods that would, on many farms, go to waste without them. I recently met a German farmer in Northern Wisconsin who told of his little flock of ten ewes that had brought in a sixty-dollar income in 1895, when sheep products were low. When I asked him what it cost to keep them that year, he replied : “Dat cost nothing.” When pressed for an explanation, he shrugged his shoulders and said : “Dey run in der brush in der summer, und dey run in der brush in der winter. Come to der haystack, eat a little hay, dat’s all.” This was practically true ; they only cost him what hay they ate in the winter.

That is, emphatically, *not* the way to keep sheep, and Mr. McKerrow knows it is not, for in a preceding paragraph he says :

Why will the farm be benefited by sheep-keeping? Sheep will clean it up ; but you will say, can good sheep be reared on weeds and brush alone? To which I must answer, no ; but good sheep can be grown on clovers, grasses, corn, oats, corn stover, lucerne, rape, cabbage and roots, and this rotation of crops will make clean land and produce good mutton and wool, and you will find that sheep, being well fed on such rations as the above mentioned, will also surprise you by the amount of weeds and tender browse they will take as dessert.

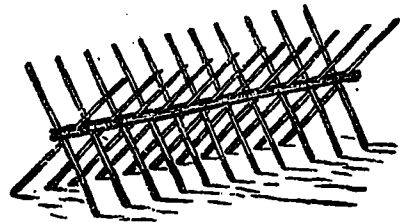
Nothing irritates us more than to hear sheep spoken of as “scavengers.” If the farmers of the United States would only treat their sheep as the farmers of Britain treat theirs, they would soon see that the monstrous disparity between the grain-yield of their land and the grain-yield of Britain would vanish. How the Americans can go on, year after year, boasting of the productive power of their soil with such facts as the following staring them in the face we cannot understand :

		Bushels
1898:	Yield of wheat, per acre, in the U. S.....	11½
	“ “ “ “ Scotland.....	34½
	“ “ “ “ England.....	33
	“ “ potatoes, “ in the U. S.....	80
	“ “ “ “ Scotland.....	280
	“ “ “ “ England.....	220

and so on of our crops ; and, particularly in the southern counties of England, it may be said without any exaggeration, that without the aid of their large flocks of sheep, the farmers could never turn out such voluminous crops. From the time the fall-sown rye, barley, and oats are ready, till the last turnip, or mangel is eaten, that is from May 1st to, say, April 30th, the sheep are constantly within the fold, under the eye of the shepherd, who knows, personally, every individual in the flock, its sire and its dam.

Here, of course, this long out-of-door grazing cannot be practised ; but there is no reason why sheep should not be fed, between hurdles, from July 1st to December 1st. We have done it—at Sorel—and it is not an expensive or troublesome operation.

Our rolling hurdle ; of which an engraving is given, is easily made ; any rough stuff will do.



Sheep Hurdle.

In our narrow farms, the best and simplest plan is to have enough hurdles made to go twice across the land from fence to fence. An engraving of the fold, with the sheep feeding off rape—the last bite, on the 7th December, 1884—may be seen in the JOURNAL for December 1884, p. 185.

*Seed-grain.*—A propos of several notices that have appeared in this, as well as in several other agricultural papers, we may remark that, in our experience, a great deal more depends upon the quality of the soil than upon the weight, etc., of the seed-grain committed to it. For instance : any Saturday in February, Cambridge (England) grain-market may be seen thronged with farmers from the fine chalk-soils of Essex, Hertfordshire, etc., who have sold their fine malting barley to