

of English horses, oxen, and sheep, is attributable. Just as the progeny of our domestic creatures bear the general impress, temperament, and qualities of the parent, so do they inherit the strength or weakness of the latter, the tendency or predisposition to actual disease. The influence of parentage is as decidedly and completely shown in the good or indifferent performance of the various functions of the body as it is in the exterior physical conformation, and the defects of the one are as readily transmitted from parent to offspring as are those of the other. Weak lungs are capable of being as directly and powerfully inherited as are bent limbs and other bodily distortions, and even in some instances as the colour of the animal itself. General constitutional weakness, with an aptitude to relapse into disease, is the inheritance of some of our most valuable strains of both horses, oxen, and sheep. The over zealous desire to introduce or improve some special quality of form, function, or expression, or to modify the general appearance in conformity with the requirements of breeders of stock, has led to the adoption of a system of in-and-in breeding, *i. e.*, the mating of animals of the same family or strain or kindred blood.

The results obtained have been highly beneficial in promoting rapid growth, early maturity, and fattening properties; but they have likewise in numerous instances proved destructive of constitutional vigour and general health, by multiplying the intensity of family infirmities. From a health point of view, it is of the highest importance to breeders of farm stock that dams and sires should be judiciously selected. Animals only with sound constitution and good physical development, born of sound parents, should be used for stock purposes. Some of the most intractable, enduring, and fatal diseases are hereditary and transmissible from parent to offspring. The destructive disorders known as tuberculosis and scrofula, which present themselves in the form of consumption or wasting, are among the number. Rheumatism, rickets, and the various diseases of the legs of horses known as splints, spavins, ringbones, and curbs are all the outcome of inherited weakness in by far the majority of cases.

Roaring, broken wind, and ophthalmia or inflammation of the eye—diseases which incapacitate and render worthless some of our best equine blood—are born of hereditary influence. Similarly the powers of endurance possessed by some horses and the tolerance of cold and deprivation exhibited by some other animals, are properties built up in the constitution and handed down from parent to progeny. Certain strains of racehorses, for example, are notorious for carrying heavy weights over long distances, and performing feats of endurance which other equally stout-looking and highly-trained animals are utterly incapable of.

The hereditary tendency to disease may be strongly or slightly inherited. In some families particular weaknesses appear in every member, at one period or another. In others they are only occasional, or may even altogether disappear from one or a succession of generations—to return again under the influence of indifferent regard for the laws of health. The influence of external circumstance may do much to uphold health and ward off disease where the tendency to it is only feebly inherited, and ewes in some cases permanently stamp out the morbid faculty altogether. In this connection good food, a suitable climate, and the general observance of the laws of health, added to judicious crossing with sound stock are the essential elements of success.

LEICESTER SHEEP.

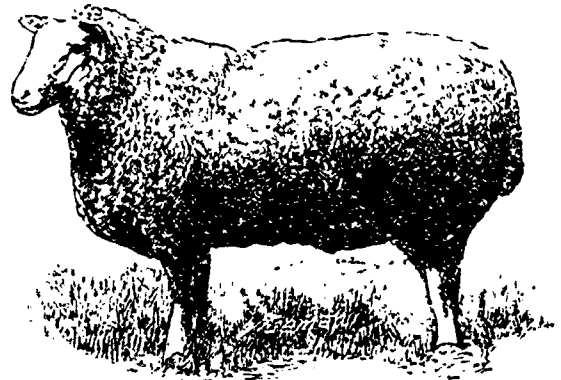
The accompanying illustrations, which were photographed from life, represent sheep that were bred and have been exhibited by Mr. George Turner, jun., of Thorpelds, North-

ampton. The ram was taken as a shearling when he was 1st at the "Royal" meeting at Hull, and 1st at the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Society's shows. The ewes were also shearlings in the same year, and took the 1st prizes at the above named meetings. The ram was sold for 120 gns. to go to France. The portraits are successful representations of the breed.

Transfers of Thoroughbred Stock.

AMERICAN BERKSHIRE RECORD.

Sweepstakes 13,921, Clifford and White, Wellington, Ohio, to Tilferd Rice, Larchland, Ill., Drion's Catherine III, 13,514, W. M. Alexander, Huntsville, Mo., to F. A. Scott, Huntsville, Mo., Tom's Sambo VI, 13,861, Esgar Stilson, Ashkoochwis, to F. Brinkerhoff, Brandon, Wis., Euraka Belle 13,754, N. H. Gentry, Sedalia, Mo., to R. J. Gray, Euraka Springs, Ark., Lord Liverpool, jr., 2,801, J. Baker Sapp, Columbia, Mo., to Chas. G. McHatton, Mexico, Mo., Urbana Chief 12,155, A. W. Todd, Urbana, Ohio, to M. D. Palmer, Mendota, Ill., Lady Surprise 13,957, Windsor Prince 13,955, W. T. Miller, Bowling Green, Ky., to E. A. Lynn, Boxville, Ky., Della 13,957, H. D. Nichol, Nash-



No. 8.—Leicester ram.

ville, Tenn., to C. C. Reynolds, Pembroke, Ky., Sallie Carlisle 10,804, Wm. F. Allen, Manhattan, Kan., to A. M. Rollins, Manhattan, Kan., Christine 13,712, C. W. Martin, St. Louis, Mich., to Martin Henry, St. Louis, Mich., Beauty of Maple Grove 13,919, C. W. Martin to Geo. W. Buney, Newark, Ohio, Baron Leicester 13,560, J. G. Snell & Bro., Edmonton, Ont., Can., to A. W. Cooley, Coldwater, Mich., Belle of Glenwood 13,918, Lady Toronto 13,937, L. W. Ashly, Colborne, Mo., to H. W. Briant, Glenwood, Mo., Elmwood Champion 13,995, Springer Bros., Springfield, Ill., to W. A. Harris, Dardenne, M., Springfield, Ill.

PHIL. M. SPRINGER,
Secretary.

The Test of Pedigree.

No observant, experienced stock breeder will deny that attention to pedigree is the touchstone to success in livestock improvement; but a pedigree may be a good one or bad. If an animal belongs strictly to any one of the various well-established breeds, it is safe to assume that it will reproduce the general characteristics of the breed to which it belongs, unless paired with another of an equally well-established but different breed. But there is such a thing as an inheritance—a well-defined inheritance—of inferiority, running back through many generations. Such pedigrees are