

## The Farm.

## THE BREEDS OF SHEEP.

Practical experience, or in its absence, the results of the practical experience of others is what is required in every newly settled country, and we therefore give the following particulars from the last report of Professor Wm. Brown respecting the characteristics of various breeds of sheep in the experience of the Ontario Experimental Farm, during four years:

**PROLIFICNESS.**—In this we have the Oxford Down, as the most recent improvement in mutton and wool from England, leading over all its relations, and particularly over the other Down to which it owes much of its character. Sure breeding is usually an accompaniment of non-interference on the part of man—as evidence Short Horn history—but the 35 years' management of this Hampshire-Cotswold-South Down has on the other somewhat overdone the point of numerous offspring—triplets being common. The Cotswold and South Down take a middle place in this respect, and though we might expect the hardier Border Leicester to be in a better position, its true English Leicester origin may have to account for the same.

**GOOD NURSES.**—This means the being able to bring up one or more lambs in first class condition, and as a beginning we have nature supporting herself in the case of the very prolific Oxford Down, by liberality under this head, followed by the South Down, which is only third in the previous case. The Short Wools then—that is the hardest varieties of our flock—are decidedly in the lead as good mothers, and I may here anticipate that we shall find other three instances in which they carry the palm from the other breeds. The Leicester now steps in before the Cotswold as a nurser, against the practical fact nevertheless that the latter as a whole pays best here.

**EARLY MATURING.**—The largest amount of flesh in the shortest time is easily taken by the two Long Wools—the Leicester leading, and wherever the long woolled blood is proportionately large we may expect to get a similar quality; so we find the Oxford Down third in this example, with the more original and uninterfered with South Down last in the list. However, it is my duty to note here, that very close quarters is already being given both of these long wools by the first cross of the Oxford Downs upon a Leicester Cotswold grade, which simply means a conjunction of more of the virtues of long woolled blood through other channels.

**HARDINESS OF CONSTITUTION.**—All our experience points to the South Down as the safest to handle under difficulties of any kind, whether seasons, pasture or winter keep, having, however, very close competition from the Cotswold; the Oxford Down is third best in this respect, though we should like more extended experience of them ere placing on the same firm footing as the South Down. Here we have the Leicester taking the lowest position.

**FREEDOM FROM DISEASE.**—This, and the previous point, are, or should be, so intimate that we have the several breeds in the same order as under last paragraph. By disease, I mean inflammation of the lungs, nasal colds, throat affections, scours, foot sore, lambing accidents, bloating on green fodders or frozen grass; for we have no acquaintance with any of the Old Country scourges. I have to confess that one of the many things that surprises me in connection with live-stock in Canada, is the comparative freedom from infectious or contagious diseases; the dryness both of summer and winter, want of extensive un-governable ranges; the paying more attention to wool than to mutton, all tend to make, Ontario at least, as much the home of sheep as of cattle.

**WOOL WEIGHT.**—In this, of course, we have but one interesting fact to note,—as between the two Long Wools,—the Cotswold being in advance of the Leicester. It is very noticeable, almost everywhere throughout the Province, that the greater difficulty lies in maintaining the Leicester crop of wool, as compared with that of the Cotswold; this is but confirming the experience of other countries, and therefore an important one as bearing on the permanent stamp of this famous breed.

**WOOL VALUE.**—This is easily allowed the South Down to the extent of one hundred per cent. over the long wools during the last two years, and thirty per cent. over the medium for the Oxford Down. In placing the Cotswold wool over the Leicester, it is simply meant that, as a whole, it is more reliable—for practically they are about equal for any purpose.

**FLESH WEIGHT.**—Here, also, we have no difficulty in sorting, having the Cotswold at the top, followed by Leicester, Oxford Down and South Down, when at maturity. We have had, however, many cases of the South Down and Leicester lambs much in advance of the others up to two months of age, but the

superior stamina of the Cotswold makes up in the long run for any want of early maturing, and, of course, the South Down is not made to bulk large at any time.

**FLESH VALUE** is graded according to the well-known scale of Britain—light weights, black faces, and original breeds.

**FEEDING PROPERTIES.**—The Short Horn among sheep is unquestionably the Leicester—of all others, making the best use of food in the shortest time for production of flesh. Bakewell apparently made them for this, and one hundred years have not apparently made any deterioration. In our experience the Oxford Down follows, and particularly its first cross from a Leicester Cotswold grade line; then the South Down and Cotswold. The unsettled disposition of the South Down is much against its rapid, or force, feeding, but taken all over, is ahead of the hard and coarser Cotswold.

**COST OF KEEP.**—Least for the South Down, second for the Oxford Down, Leicester third, and the Cotswold the most.

**IMPROVEMENT OF OTHERS.**—It must be borne in mind that these notes refer to the experience of the Ontario Experimental Farm, and under this head we have no doubt about awarding the palm to the Oxford Down; but whether such a property is, as yet with them, so permanently characteristic or reliable as the Leicester, it is impossible to say. That the Oxford, however has the power to improve the first offspring from a grade ewe that it exhibits, early maturing, hardiness, superior wool weight and value; flesh weight and value and feeding properties, equal to and over the Leicester, is unquestionable. On one sheep during two years a difference of \$1.13 appears in favor of the Oxford cross, which, in a large flock, simply means a fortune in a few years. The South Down is not second to the Cotswold under this subject.

**PERMANENCY OF CHARACTER,** that is, which of four breeds we have thus sketched in detail, will maintain these details most permanently—taking an average of the twelve points? Our experience says first for the South Down—the least interfered with breed of the lot in its home history among the chalk hills, but with a very close competition from the very old, though not now so pure in their original blood, graziers of the Cotswold hills. The newness of the Oxford with us, remember, may be much of the character of most "new brooms," but as its four years' conduct has been permanent enough, we give it precedence of the good old English Leicester, per Border management stamp, but, nevertheless, with no less respect for said Leicester even in this connection.

## Poultry and Pigeons.

## MATING FOR SEX.

The practical experience of large breeders points to the conclusion that to a certain extent the production of sex may be controlled, and as evidence of this Mrs. E. M. Stebbins contributes the following particulars to the *Pancier's Journal*:

Poultry may be justly regarded as so many mills, each class of a different order. One kind, fed grains, will manufacture eggs; another kind, fed with the same, will store up fat. The characteristics of every class must be carefully studied and treated according as results are wanted. As I have said, my poultry is for market: pullets for laying; cockerels for broilers and capons. My market is in private families, and two hotels which I supply by contract, in a city six hours' ride from my place. Now, the chief source of my profit comes in breeding what I want. The stock from which I get my best pullets for laying would give me the poorest sort for capons or broilers, because they would be hard to flesh up, and naturally, the flesh would not be on the parts most desired, and the birds lack in size. In the classes I use for caponing, flesh is laid on rapidly with but little expense for food, while the reproductive tendencies are in the minimum. It is easily to be seen that if I am able to control the sex of the hatch, even in a measure, I can use both classes to the best advantage, and greatly increase my profit. This I soon realized, and studied first to find the stock that would give me the most profitable birds of each class, then how to produce the sexes I desired in those classes. The results of the last three years' experimenting lead me to believe I am on the right track. For pullets, I mate a cockerel with hens, feeding him more than his mates, and changing often. Of the produce from

such mating, during 1879, 93 per cent. were pullets, and not one unfertile egg. This from an average of 580 hens and 180 cockerels. For cockerels, I reverse this, mating pullets with three year old cocks, keeping the pullets in extra condition. During 1879, the hatch for this mating was 78 per cent. cockerels, 13 per cent. unfertile eggs, the balance pullets. I have two incubators in constant operation the year through. My winter houses are of brick on the north and east sides, banked up to the top. The west end holds the entrance and store room, and is of frame, lathed and plastered. The south side is wholly of glass, sloping to the back—the panes to within two feet of the bottom, painted. A range of five steam pipes passes through the house, but we rarely have to use them. My market calls for a constant supply, so I know no season but have to meet the demand by pushing forward young stock, supplying artificially what is not seasonable. I like the business. It requires management and tact, but I do not know of another, a woman uneducated in business matters, could undertake with so small a capital, and realize as much as I have as easily and with the promise for the future so sure.

**CHICKEN CHOLERA.**—In the so called "cholera" of fowls, the characteristic symptoms are as follows: The wings droop, an unconquerable somnolence is noted; on starting the animals and forcing them to open their eyes they do so as from a deep sleep, and soon the lids close again, and usually death occurs without any particular movement of the animal, and after a mute agony; at most its wings flutter a little as it dies. The disease is produced by a microscopic organism which has been successively described, more or less perfectly, by Moritz of Alsatis, Peron of Tuin, and Toussaint of Toulouse. This microscopic organism differs from all allied ones, by not developing in beer; in fact, this fluid, which favors the development of the anthrax bacillus, is fatal to it. Animals recovering from one attack, present an immunity to in the future; the Cochin-China breed presents a natural immunity to the virus.—*Pasteur, report in L'Union Medicale.*

## THE PEDESTRIAN TOURNAMENT.

The 72-hours go-as-you-please pedestrian tournament at the Adelaide Street Rink, closed on Saturday night the 12th inst, at 11 o'clock. Everything connected with the affair passed off most successfully, and Mr. Chas. Atkinson, the manager, and those interested with him can congratulate themselves on their success in the conduct of the affair. The financial outcome was not so flattering as anticipated, and the tournament can not be considered satisfactory in a pecuniary sense. An accident which might have been attended with more serious results occurred on the conclusion of the tournament. A rush was made for the door, and the bridge across the track becoming over crowded, fell, precipitating those on it to the track, a distance of about ten feet. Beyond some bruises no one was hurt, which, considering the circumstances, can be considered fortunate. It is thought Clow could easily have made 400 miles if he had been so disposed; while Barrett, the second man, astonished his friends. The disappointment of the walk was Panchot, who started as favorite, but withdrew the first day. Old Desfont showed the effect Father Time has exercised on his once great powers, and had to succumb early in the race to his pale-faced brothers. The intermediate races created little excitement, being too much of the "cut-and-dried" order. Below we give a table of the distances deserving of notice accomplished; the remainder not being worthy of mention:—

NAMES.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
Clow .....	78-12	102	222	288	345-7	384-3
Barrett .....	76-9	145	206-4	262	315-4	361-3
Curtis .....	62-3	120	178-5	242-2	299-3	355-7
Albert .....	67-8	126	182	239-4	296-7	340-8
Itatjen .....	62-10	113-9	164	223-10	282-9	333-11
N. Y. Newsboy .....	33-1	118-1	175-3	227-11	284-5	324-5
Haberger .....	35-2	102-4	158-1	200-4	248-7	277-3

Owing to press of matter last week we were unable to publish the above account.