

LIVE STOCK.

Ringworm—Goitre.

Ringworm is a contagious disease to which all classes of animals, and man, are subject. Calves and young cattle appear to be more susceptible to it than other animals, but no age renders an animal immune. It is a purely skin disease and is due to the presence of a vegetable parasite which is readily capable of being conveyed from one animal to another by direct contact, the hands of attendants, pails, clothing, the contact of one animal with the stalls, etc., of affected animals, etc. In horses the harness or blankets worn by an affected animal, if worn by another horse will in all probability become the medium of infection. In like manner, curry-combs, brushes, rubbing cloths, etc., that are used on an affected animal of any class if used on other animals become a fertile cause of infection.

Symptoms.—While any part of the animal may be the seat of the trouble, the skin around the eyes and face and on the neck and back, appears to be the favorite seat. The first symptoms noticed are usually an itchiness, which is soon followed by a slight form of eruption which soon assumes the appearance of little yellowish scales of a circular form, the mass of scales forming a circular space—hence the name "ringworm." A variable number of these circular patches may be noticed on different parts of the body. They are of a yellowish color when fresh, but become lighter in color as they grow older, the hairs become bristly, some broken off and some become split. When the disease is not checked the spots become more numerous and the animal suffers acutely from itchiness, and sometimes rubs against solid objects so hard as to cause bleeding. If a scale be removed and the under surface examined by a magnifying glass, the parasite can be seen.

Treatment.—In order that the spread of the disease may be checked, it is necessary that great care be taken to avoid the conveyance of the virus from the diseased to healthy animals. Where practicable, it is well to remove all non-infected animals to non-infected quarters. If this cannot be done the diseased animals should be isolated and the quarters in which they had been kept should be disinfected by thoroughly sweeping and then giving a thorough washing with an insecticide, as a 10-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid, or one of the coal-tar antiseptics or a coat of hot lime wash with 5 per cent. crude carbolic acid. This precaution is advisable on account of the virus lodging in stalls, bedding, etc., and infecting other animals. Local treatment

consists in moistening the scales with warm water and soap, or sweet oil, and then applying an insecticide as tincture of iodine, or an ointment made of 2 drams white hellebore to an ounce of vaseline, or in fact any good insecticide, once or twice daily until cured.

Goitre or Bronchocele: Goitre or Bronchocele is an enlarged condition of the thyroid gland. Animals of the various classes of any age are liable to this condition, but we wish to discuss the trouble when appearing at or shortly after birth. The thyroid gland is situated in the throat at the commencement of the windpipe. It consists of two lobes, one on each side, joined by a narrow band. Each lobe is ovoid and consists of minute vesicles surrounded by a plexus of minute blood vessels. The gland has no duct, but is plentifully supplied with blood-vessels, and secretes an albuminous fluid which becomes absorbed into the blood. The function of this gland is unknown. The lobes of the gland can be felt in an animal of any age, and, as stated, are liable to become enlarged (either one or both lobes) at any age. In foetal life it is quite large, but usually becomes reduced before birth. In some cases, especially in lambs and calves, it is of abnormal size at birth. This is more frequently noticed in lambs than in any other class of stock, and sometimes the enlargement is so great that respiration is interfered with, and the young animal is weak and unthrifty and not infrequently dies.

The cause of the enlargement is not well understood. Some claim that the condition in the young animal is the result of insufficient nourishment for the dam during the period of gestation. Others claim that it is caused by the pregnant animal consuming water that contains a too great percentage of lime.

Symptoms.—The symptoms cannot readily be mistaken, either or both lobes of the gland are enlarged, sometimes at birth and sometimes not until a variable time after birth. If both lobes are enlarged there will be a well-marked, movable lump at each side of the throat, there not appearing to be any connection between the two, but appearing both to sight and manipulation to be two separate lumps. If only one lobe is involved, of course one side is normal. These enlargements are not sore to the touch, and in most cases do not apparently interfere with health, but in some cases, more particularly in lambs, they interfere with respiration and strength.

Treatment.—In many cases treatment is not necessary, as the glands gradually become reduced without it, but treatment is wise in other cases and in all cases hastens reduction. It consists in rubbing well once daily with an ointment made of 2 drams each of iodine and iodide of potassium mixed with 2 ounces vaseline, or other ointment or liquid containing a large percentage of iodine or one of its compounds. WHIP.

The best place to put the newly-weaned lambs is on a second crop clover field or on a piece of rape which has been sown for the purpose. A little care should be exercised when they are first introduced to this new feed. Coming from dry pastures they are liable to eat a little too much and there is some danger of bloat, although this is not a common trouble with sheep. It would be safer, however, not to turn the lambs on either the green clover or the rape when it is wet and it is wise to see that the lambs are pretty well filled up on some other feed they like before they are turned on this green feed, so that there will be less danger of them gorging themselves. It would be better to turn them on for an hour and take them off again for a day or two than to lose one or more through bloating or acute indigestion.

All newly-weaned lambs require some feed other than that obtained from the field if they are to make the best gains. Particularly will this feeding be found profitable with pure-breds to be kept or offered for sale for breeding purposes. Ram lambs are always harder to feed and require more feed than the ewe lambs. It would be wise to erect a little shelter in one corner of the field where the lambs may enjoy the shade and to some extent get away from the flies. In this shelter, or near it, place a trough from which the lambs may get a light feed twice daily of a mixture of oats and bran and for the ram lambs possibly a little nutted oilcake added. We have seen them do very well on oats alone but a little grain after weaning makes a wonderful difference in the gains made.

A small, special trough should be arranged near the shelter and in it should be kept a goodly supply of salt. It is surprising the amount of salt that sheep will eat where they have access to it at all times.

And water must not be forgotten. It is absolutely essential, particularly in the hot, dry fall season, that the lambs get plenty of fresh water. Their troughs should be supplied twice daily. Of course if there is running water in the fields the lambs will do even better, and where there are trees for shade they enjoy the breezes which trees always seem to stir up.

When separating at weaning it is always well to go over the lambs with the shears, square them up a bit, remove all docks and make them as attractive as possible. This pays when prospective buyers visit the flocks, even though they are not buying lambs. It gives them a better impression of the entire flock and of the owner as a sheep breeder.

Flushing the Ewes.

Many seem to think that when the lambs are weaned the ewes do not require any particular care with regard to feed. This is a mistake. Experience has proven that a great deal of the success of the following year's lamb crop depends upon the care and feeding of the ewes the fall before, and upon the condition the ewes are in at the time of service. Ewes from which the lambs are weaned now should not be bred for three or four weeks. They, like the lambs, should be turned upon a field of fresh clover or rape and it is as important that they be fed grain in small quantities as it is that the lambs get it. Of course grain is scarce and dear this year and should be judiciously handled, but, in any event, give the ewes good pasture if any is available on the farm and give them a rest between lamb-weaning and breeding time. It would be better to have the lambs come a month later and have a larger number of big, strong youngsters than to be in a hurry about breeding this fall; and there is the other phase to be considered this year when feed is scarce, the later the lambs the less feed required through the winter. It would be better to have them dropped on grass next spring than to have them come early with insufficient feed for the ewes.

Before the ewes are turned out, go over them with the clippers as in the case of the lambs only be more careful to remove all tags and square them up nicely. Exercise the same care in turning them upon the green feed as in the case of the lambs and where possible accustom them to come into the buildings at night. We mention this because it may have some bearing on the breeding season. It is generally easier on the ram, and better results follow, where he is kept inside away from the ewes during the daytime, is judiciously fed and is turned out with them at night.

Flushing ewes simply means feeding them well and getting them up into good condition before they are bred. The ewes composing the flock will, on the whole, give a larger number of strong, healthy lambs when they are gaining in flesh at the time of service rather than when bred in failing flesh, or thin, just after a hard season with the lambs. It must be remembered that lambs four or five months old, continually dragging at the ewes pull them down very rapidly in flesh and lower their vitality. This is why it is important that the ewes be fed up before they are bred. Every flock-master likes to get as many strong, living lambs as possible, and the fall of the year is the time to start. In the Old Country sheep are sometimes let down in flesh after the lambs are weaned even though they may not be in very high fit at the time. Of course it is necessary that the ewes be dried off and it is advisable in some instances to keep them on dry pasture for a few days after the lambs are from them and before they are turned on the rich, succulent feed. Any that are heavy milkers must be watched that udder trouble does not develop. Where udders fill up and show a tendency to become hard it will be necessary to milk the ewes out once or twice. After they are fairly well dried up there can be no danger from turning them out on green feed, provided they are gradually accustomed to it. As a general thing ewes in this country are thin enough without any further

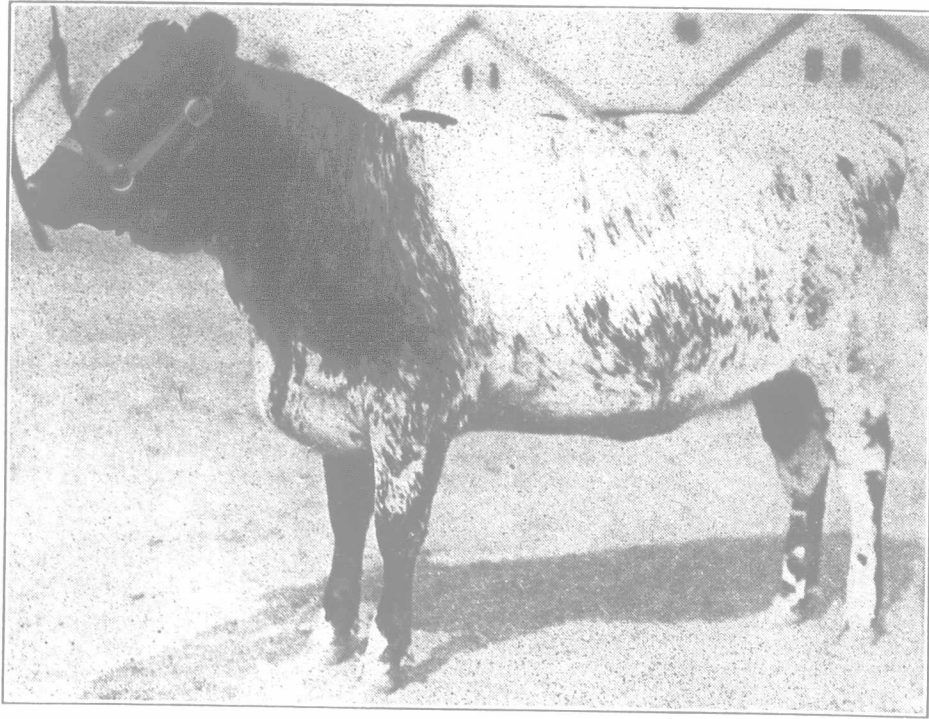
Weaning Lambs and Flushing Ewes.

As a general rule, lambs would be the better of fairly early weaning. After the average lamb has reached the age of from four to five months, he will do better to be placed apart from the ewes on good, fresh pasture and well fed, rather than being left with the dam. Breeders of pedigreed sheep and those who maintain show flocks usually make it a point to have their lambs dropped early in the season and they wean shortly after midsummer, or when the lambs are about the age stated. The bulk of the lambs raised in the country, however, are not pure-bred, or where they are, are bred and fed under average farm conditions and so are not dropped so early in the season nor are they weaned much before the middle of September or first of October. The average farmer makes the mistake of weaning his lambs on the day he intends to turn his stock ram with the ewes. This is generally too late to be the best practice for either lambs or ewes. The lambs will generally do better if called upon to feed themselves, and the ewes certainly require a rest between the time the lambs are weaned and the next breeding if a large crop of lambs is to be had the following year.

Weaning the Lambs.

Lambs should be taken away from the ewes and fastened in a field some distance from that in which the ewe flock is to be run after separation. So long as the lambs are left with the ewes they will depend upon their mothers for the greater portion of their sustenance and will not rustle about and secure as much feed as they should, besides, pastures upon which the ewe

flock, with the lambs, have run throughout the season are liable to be rather close-cropped, dry and unpalatable. It should be remembered that sheep, both old and young, are a class of stock that require frequent changes of pasture. Weaning the lambs assures them fresh pasture for a time. It is absolutely necessary that the sexes be divided. The ram lambs and the



Britannia.

First-prize senior calf and junior champion Shorthorn female, Toronto. Owned by A. F. & G. Auld, Guelph.

ewe lambs will not do well running together and there is a danger of course of the ewe lambs breeding. Right here we might mention that with anything but pure-bred stock all ram lambs should be made wethers in the spring. Wether and ewe lambs may be run together without difficulty and this, in itself, is no small consideration on many farms, for it is not every farm that has more than one field of nice, succulent clover or rape in which to turn the lambs at weaning.