

THE MARKET DEMANDS

1.—Young animals, well developed, fleshy with an even distribution of fat, not deposited in lumps: with the quick maturing English breeds of sheep: (southdown, shropshire, hampshire, oxford, leicester, etc) one can easily satisfy the market on this point. The lambs of all breeds weigh 75 to 100 at 9½ months old.

The production of this lamb is advantageous because the younger the animal the less the lb. of meat will cost.

2.—Animals giving good returns and of good conformation. Returns depend upon the state of condition but also upon conformation which must permit the production of cuts the most in demand and paid the highest price by the consumer. The leg and loin (porter-house) are much in demand. One would be safe in saying that the hind quarters and all that is back of the three first ribs have a much higher value than the fore-quarters.

Apart from the market exigencies, the breeder will use for breeding, animals of a healthy and vigorous constitution. Wool, though being of secondary importance must not be neglected, and must receive due consideration in selecting breeding-stock.

We shall divide this lecture in two parts :

1.—What conformation in relation to meat production must be.

2.—What the fleece must be.
