

the heavy covering of wool, which the flies cannot penetrate, makes it unnecessary. On the other hand, the presence of a tail induces the collection of manure, in which maggots may develop.

REASONS FOR CASTRATION.

1. Unsexed lambs are more easily cared for than rams in the field, since they are not so restless and, consequently, do not require as strong fences.

2. Wethers grow and fatten more quickly than rams. Lambs for the full market are disposed of shortly after weaning and should be in good condition at that time. Where emasculation has been neglected they may, however, not be fit for the shambles. At about three or four months old the lamb realizes his masculinity and proceeds to



Castrating lambs by means of the emasculator.

worry the females in his company and, when separated from them, the males will jump upon one another, paying very little attention to feeding. These lambs should be fattening, but reality shows that the reverse is the case and what is known as the baby fat is lost. A check in growth takes place and it is impossible to hasten the fattening process or obtain the desired state of bloom, unless heavy grain feeding is practised. This means a financial loss either owing to the greater amount of grain which must be fed or to the reduction in price which results from an unfinished condition. Experiment has shown that wethers make 11 per cent more gains in weight under similar conditions than do ram lambs. The negligent sheep raiser does, therefore, pay a severe penalty.

3. Drovers will not pay as much for ram lambs as for wethers. Some markets will accept rams only at a reduced price. The reduction made in this respect by the Live Stock Exchange of Toronto is seventy-five cents per head upon all males not castrated.