

Sheep Husbandry.

Hurdles for Sheep.

The *American Stock Journal* has the following reference to this subject in a recent number:—

American agriculturists attach too little importance to the beneficial effects on the soil by keeping great quantities of live stock on their farms; and, strange as it may appear to stock farmers in the North, it is often a subject of remark that "so and so" has too much of his grass and clover eaten off, the ploughing it under being thought to have much more striking issue than if consumed on the surface

and the dung and urine left thereon. As wool has caused sheep to be much more thought of than formerly, it is a pity that some prominent breeders do not introduce the use of the common, simple "sheep hurdle," which is universally seen in England, without which no farmer there could keep his land in condition to bear the constant drain upon it by the rapid succession of crops taken therefrom. What a change might be produced on exhausted light land by a good system of sheep husbandry, keeping the sheep a great portion of the year in pens on the land; first rye, then clover, roots, &c.,—adopting a course of rotation with crops which would not only allow of supporting a large flock on every farm, but

by bringing a fourth or fifth of it in turn each year for roots a much more numerous herd might be wintered, in addition to the sheep than was ever thought possible to be fed alone."

A cheap, portable hurdle for sheep may be made with posts two inches square, and cross bars of inch strips three inches wide,—the strips let into the posts say half an inch—the whole nailed together, and strengthened with cross braces. A stronger kind is made with heavier posts, and the bars morticed into them. We have seen such hurdles in use in the neighbourhood of Guelph, the sheep being folded on fields of vetches, &c., and leaving the land in fine order for a subsequent crop.



PAIR OF SHROPSHIRE DOWNS.

HERewith we present a fine illustration of a breed of sheep which ranks high among Short-Wooled British varieties, and is deservedly attracting much attention from flock-masters in this country. The Shropshire Downs are the result of several crosses and have only quite recently established their claim to be considered a distinct and independent breed. They were first brought into prominent notice in 1845, since which period they have rapidly advanced in public favour. In reference to their origin and progress, Mr. Charles Howard of Biddenham, Bedfordshire, in an address before the London or Central Farmers' Club, in 1860, said:—

"This breed has been established by a prudent selection of the breeding animals, and I learn from a gentleman who kindly favoured me with this information upon the point, that the late Mr. Meire was the first to improve upon the original type. This he did in the first place by the use of the Leicester; as their faces became white he would then have recourse to a South Down or other dark-faced sheep. It was, however, left to the son to carry out and to bring to a successful issue what the father had commenced, and Mr. Samuel Meire no doubt may be looked upon as the founder of the improved Shropshire Downs. We gather from his address to the Wenlock Farmers' Club that he accomplished this, not by resorting to any of the established breeds, but by using the best animals from his own large flock * * * Lately a

very great change has come over the breeders of Shropshires; they have availed themselves of larger sheep of heavier fleece and earlier maturity, so that the only affinity they bear to the original Shrop are dark faces and legs; they now pride themselves in exhibiting some well fattened shoarlings (yearlings past,) weighing upon times 22lbs. to 24lbs. per quarter, but this is not general."

The Shropshire Downs are nearly as large as the Leicesters and Cotswolds, and yield about the same quantity of wool. They have the dark-coloured legs and face of the South-downs,—the same nice round compact frame, and even uniform symmetry of appearance, with the additional recommendation that they are about one-third heavier. They are remarkably free from liability to disease, and are very hardy. They are prolific breeders, arrive at maturity early, fatten quickly upon a comparatively small quantity of food, and their wool, when they are well fed, is of that peculiarly glossy character which is much desired for the manufacture of a certain class of lustrous goods. They produce a superior article of mutton, and in this respect are only excelled by the South Downs. Very fine specimens of this variety of sheep have been imported into the United States and Canada. Randall, in his *Practical Shepherd*, gives an account of a ram imported in 1861 whose live weight is 334 lbs., and who yielded on the 16th May, 1863, 17 lbs. 5 oz. of washed wool of 11½ months' growth. He also

mentions a three-year old ewe, whose live weight is 241 lbs., and when sheared at the date just mentioned, gave 9 lbs. 3 oz. of washed wool of 11½ months growth. Mr. George Miller, of Markham, gives the Shropshire Downs a very high character, and says that for health, hardiness, and easiness of keep they excel all the other sheep, of which he has four kinds. The Council of the Provincial Agricultural Association, at its recent meeting, in revising the Prize List for the Exhibition in September next, erected this breed into a separate class, and we may therefore expect that it will henceforth attract more notice than it has hitherto done.

Cure for Scab in Sheep.

For the benefit of Wool-Growers, I send you a recipe for the cure of scab—which has been used with great success in this county. It has the advantage of being cheap and not injuring the constitution of the sheep, or persons applying it, besides being a sure cure.

The recipe was procured by a shepherd of this county from his father, in Ireland, who has charge of about 600 sheep there.

Recipe.—To one gallon of Tobacco water or Salt brine, add one ounce of Corrosive Sublimate; one ounce of Sal Ammoniac; one ounce of Arsenic; one-fourth ounce Blue Stone; one-half gill Oil of Vitriol;