

useless, as none but powerful agents have the slightest chance of acting in time to avoid the usual results. Aconite, a valuable remedy in all inflammatory attacks, is the only one, perhaps, that can with confidence be suggested for these cases; and if employed when the first appearances of uneasiness are seen, its effects are marvellously rapid. In Europe, Fleming's tincture of aconite is mostly used, and the dose carefully apportioned. The most simple course is to put one drachm into a pint bottle, fill up with pure water, and give a small table spoonful, say three times in the course of two hours, or even every half hour, until a quiet condition follows, after which an occasional dose will suffice to keep up the sedative effect; a single dose has often arrested the excitement at once; and since in very decided cases not more than two would be necessary to produce a marked sedative action. During the treatment, the ewe should be housed and kept warm, dry and particularly quiet. Sheep are especially sensitive to interference, and, at the last gasp, will struggle to escape the touch of a stranger.

Unnecessary violence is a fruitful source of loss among ewes. When unmistakable symptoms of lambing are observed, the ewe should be carefully watched, but not interfered with, as the possibility is that nature will finish her work without extra aid, which, when prematurely and injuriously rendered, will be sure to do harm, sometimes to a fatal degree. If, however, after a reasonable time, no advance of the fœtus takes place, the shepherd may carefully examine its position, and if all be right, leave matters alone; if the mother be exhausted, or the fœtus wrongly presented, judicious assistance is then indispensable. But this should be done with much care, with a view to aid, rather than force, nature, and everything approaching to violence (so often fatal) should be studiously avoided.

Inversion of the womb, generally produced by straining, sometimes by unskilful handling, is occasionally fatal, and always permanently injurious to the animal, especially for breeding. The protruding viscus should be carefully cleaned and returned, the animal's hinder parts being subsequently propped up, to facilitate its retention, and a dose of the aconite mixture will usually prevent a recurrence of the straining efforts. Where the womb is obstinately everted again and again, a strong suture is sometimes placed across the external opening, with success; or in the event of this

failing, a ligature may be placed round the neck of the organ, close to the quarter, and the protruding part excised. This operation is often successfully performed, although there is more reason to fear the result of inflammation after excision, than difficulty in returning the uterus to its situation again. Ewes that survive these operations should be at once fattened for the butcher.

After delivery has been effected, and the ewe is apparently doing well, there are occasionally some minor difficulties to be surmounted. Among them are swelling and hardening of the udder, with the formation of abscess. This disease often occurs in cold, wet seasons, and though seemingly of trifling importance at first, a considerable number of animals die from the irritation, and many are very seriously injured. At the commencement, when the swelling is first observed, the shepherd should apply fomentations; the animal suffering should be placed under shelter, and have plenty of dry straw to lie on; a small dose of Epsom salts (one ounce) may be given, and as soon as the swelling and heat have subsided, a little stimulant may be used with friction; an ointment composed of iodide of potassium with twelve parts of lard, is very good for the purpose. If the sheep be suffered to remain in the cold, damp soil, the circulation in the gland is ultimately arrested, and the part becomes a dead mass, that rots by degrees away, gradually impregnating the system with a quantity of decomposed matter. In such cases, a free dissection of the diseased part is the only course that promises a chance of success; most commonly, however, the subject sinks, from the weakness engendered by the combined irritation and poisonous influence of the diseased organ.

A successful lambing season, in a great measure depends upon a properly constructed, well defended ewe pen, a sufficient quantity of nutritious food, and, above all, a careful shepherd, well acquainted with his duties, and conscientiously desirous of performing them—one who will watch for symptoms of a possible mischief, and hasten to repair it, who is scrupulously cleanly, and light and tender in his touch in rendering needful assistance. Furnish such a man with a bottle of aconite mixture, material for gruel, a few simple comforts, and facilities for heating abundance of water, and there will be no need to apprehend—adverse circumstances out of the question—any