

may be added of Cheviots in the four or five northern counties of England, breeding on the hills or feeding on the lower land, perhaps 300,000, total 3,700,000.

*Management.*—The breeding of Cheviot sheep is almost entirely confined to the hilly or uncultivated portions of the country which runs across Scotland. It comprehends the upper parts of the valleys and the hills on which the branches of the rivers take their rise, and the extent is nearly equal to the half of the country south of the Forth.

The farms extend in size from seven to eight hundred acres, up to seven or eight thousand acres, but in many cases one farmer holds several of these farms though detached from each other and his own residence. The farms are mostly rated by the number of acres of sheep they can keep, some of the very best may keep a sheep to the acre, but more commonly they keep a 1000 sheep on from 1200 to 1800 acres. One shepherd is kept for about every six hundred sheep, the shepherds are paid by having kept for them a certain number of sheep their own property (*which is called their pack*) with one or two cows and a quantity of oatmeal, as theirs is a very responsible situation, they are among the best paid of rural laborers.

The natural herbage on these sheep walks varies much both in quantity and quality. On some farms heath preponderates, and the grass for food among it is scanty. On other *bents* and green sward of a coarser or finer herbage covers the hills; and on the lower slopes or damp clay sub-soils, there is a coarse green growth which affords much sustenance, particularly in winter and spring this class of soils has been much improved of late years by open drains, a mixture of all these various soils and grasses is conducive to the health of the sheep. On most of these farms the sheep is kept all the year round, each sheep keeping within a small range, but in a few high situated farms, and in severe winters with heavy snows they have to be removed to some lower situated farms where there is little snow for a few weeks, this is called *flying*, and may happen once in seven years; neither is it now so common as formerly, as on these farms subject to such snows, sufficient hay is cut from the ground to keep the stock for several weeks. Loss by disease happens on all farms, though some lose much more than others. It may range from two to ten and more per cents. It may average exclusive of sucking lambs about five per cent. The loss of lambs in ordinary seasons is likewise about five per cent, but in bad springs and lambing time, or after severe stormy winters it may reach even more per cent.

The breeder of the Cheviot sheep seldom combines the occupation of feeding them for the butcher. This is left for the occupiers of arable farms on the lower grazing ground. The wether lambs are sold in the months of July and August, being then transferred to the low country grazier, who keeps the lambs on his young grass after the grain crops are cut till about November or the beginning of December when they are put on turnips, and sent fat to the butcher when from sixteen to twenty-one months old. Their weight then, when alive will run from 120 to 160 lbs. The four quarters of mutton weighing from 65 to 85 lbs. This is particularly the case in Cumberland where Cheviot lambs are preferred to all other breeds by the low country farmers and by whom they are managed with great skill and success. It is not at all unusual with them to realize an increase of twenty to twenty-five shillings per head on the purchase price of these lambs after a twelvemonths keep. This fact is peculiarly interesting from the proof which this affords of a hitherto unsuspected capacity in Cheviots and probably in other upland breeds to attain a profitable degree of fatness and weight of carcase at almost as early an age, as any lowland breed when the same attention and liberal feeding is bestowed upon them.

Liverpool is the principal market for such sheep but many are sent to Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow. No mutton is considered better or gives a higher price, the general rate for some late years for lots averaging say 72 lbs. the four quarters is about two pounds (sterling) or perhaps two guineas. The lambs will clip in June an average of five pounds of wool which gives nearly the highest price of any British wool, being fit for the same class of manufactures as south down wool.

*Quality.*—As the Cheviot sheep are unknown to some of us, I condense the following description of them from Morton's "Cyclopædia of Agriculture" where it is said they rank as the most valuable breed in the kingdom. "The Cheviots are destitute of horns in both sexes; the face and legs are white, though individuals occur in the purest flocks in which there are mottled gray—an indication as many allege of superior hardiness.

The head is erect, long, and clean; and while the neck and throat are well covered with wool, none must appear on the head. The eye is lively and prominent; the ears long, open, and well covered with hair. These different features combined, must exhibit