

or give it once or twice a week. He could wish to hear more discussion on wintering and general management.

Mr. PARKINSON said, if he understood Mr. Card aright, his object in keeping up two pure breeds was merely to obtain good lambs for the butcher. Such an object could be quite as well accomplished at less cost. The Leicester ewe was not a very good milker, but the common Canadian ewes were both good milkers and good nurses, and by putting these to Leicester rams, early and excellent lambs could be procured.

Mr. Harland considered the Leicesters the best breed for the country, and would have none other.

Mr. Parkinson had no desire for such crosses, none certainly for such a purpose—breeding lambs for the butcher. He could make five-fold more by bringing his lambs to maturity than by killing them. What he meant by maturity was, the full growth and fatness of the animal at the earliest possible age. Sheep, fit for the butcher when ready to shear, would command a good price.

Mr. Harland enquired what wool and weight were obtainable on an average from sheep 15 months old.

Mr. Parkinson said his shearings averaged 6 lbs of wool each, several had given 6½ to 7½. As to weight, he could not speak so definitely, having generally saved his best male lambs or rams; the few wethers he raised were not a fair average. He had now two pair of shearing twin wethers, which he believed would average 30 lbs. a quarter. His ewes generally drop their lambs from the 20th to the 25th of March, so that these shearings would be some nineteen months old. They had received a little extra feed during winter, a few turnips and a little hay dairy, in addition to pea straw, and they had been shut up since the recent snow came on.

Mr. Harland said he would ask if any other breed would give such weight at the same age?

Mr. Card said his object was to produce early lambs, that could be well fattened and got off before winter. Last year he put his ewes to a Leicester ram; he had killed lambs of different breeds, and he found he had 3 lbs. a quarter more from a Southdown and Leicester cross than from pure Leicesters. Two lambs of the former sort, at four and a half months old, averaged 13 lbs to the quarter.

Mr. Parkinson could not say what his lambs would weigh at four months, as he never dreams of killing at such an age. He remembered killing a lamb he did not think worth raising when six months old; it weighed 16 to 17 lbs a quarter. As to salt, he did not think it beneficial to give it to them more than twice a week in summer, and perhaps once in winter. When left without salt for any considerable period, the sheep would have a strong desire for it, and it would be injudicious to put large quantities before them at irregular periods, when the younger animals, more especially, by eating too much, would be injured by scouring. Then, as to the best season for having the lambs drop, he had no difficulty in raising lambs before the grass, by giving plenty of turnips. When formerly the ewes had twins, and were without succulent food, they generally

lost one of each pair for want of milk. In 1852, he raised 33 lambs from 26 ewes, and in 1853, 32 lambs from 25 ewes. He thought the 20th of March was a very good season for lambs to be dropped; they then had a good start when the grass came. When a lamb chanced to come a month later, although it went a month younger to grass, its senior had got so much the start, it could not catch up to it all the summer.

Mr. Harland said, if lambs were starved and stunted by bad nursing in the early part of the season, it were certainly better to have them later, but if well milked, the early drop had an obvious advantage over those that came late.

Mr. Wright wished to know if it was considered advantageous to keep sheep warm in winter.

Mr. Parkinson would keep them well sheltered and dry. One reason for his preferring early lambing was, that in the end of March and beginning of April, there was no great pressure of other farm work, and consequently more leisure to attend to this department.

Mr. Harland wished to know the period at which Mr. Parkinson put his ewes to the ram.

Mr. Parkinson—From 20th October to 1st November, and the lambs would then be dropped from 20th March to 1st April. He did not approve of giving mashies of warm food—good sound turnips, if the sheep were used to them, were much better, and he believed they were also better for cows than warm mashies, which were apt to give surfeits.

The Chairman had no doubt the meeting was quite of opinion that the Leicesters were the best sheep for the country.

Mr. Harland wished to know the best remedy for ticks.

Mr. Parkinson said that if the lambs were allowed to run with the flock for a week after shearing, it would be found that the ticks had left the ewes, and got on the lambs; then, if these suffered from ticks, he used a wash recommended by Mr. Thurtell, 2 lbs of arsenic boiled in 2 pints of water, with a small quantity of soap to help the decomposition; the liquid to be diluted with 10 or 12 additional pails of water, and the lambs immersed. The process would perfectly destroy the ticks.

Mr. Harland spoke of a strong decoction of tobacco as an approved remedy.

Mr. Parkinson, in answer to queries, said he did not know how he would manage in the event of finding his sheep bad with ticks in the beginning of winter. He thought it would perhaps be best to let them alone.

Mr. Wright would prefer immersing them even at that period. [From consideration of the length of wool the sheep would at this season have obtained, this opinion did not appear to be generally acquiesced in].

Mr. Harland had heard of mercurial ointment being applied in such cases.

Mr. Parkinson thought the 1st of September a good time for weaning. The lambs would then be sufficiently strong, and the ewes would have time to make up before winter.

Mr. Harland thought the 1st of August would not be too early, only that from the condition of