

tion for such a stock, requires now to be laid, and the rearing of this class of sheep is hardly yet in a sufficient number of hands to accomplish that object; under such circumstances, the raising for himself, is the only way by which a farmer can be supplied with a good article, at a price which will pay for feeding. By keeping this class of sheep in good order, they can be turned off at an early age, not encumbering our small farms with a heavy stock in different stages of growth. They may be kept ever ready for any demand, regardless of season. At the same time it is an important consideration in the present state of our affairs, that no actual outlay in money is required at any stage of the operation, except in the first acquirement of a breeding stock. When capital is sufficient, I should certainly recommend beginning at the root by buying as many good breeding ewes as circumstances may require, using to which, one of the best tups, you at once obtain your object. But as means are not usually too abundant here, it may frequently be desirable to begin crossing from the very bottom, or with only one or two superior ewes. In such a case, it may often scarce be worth while to use a very costly tup for the general flock, but rather to spare the expense, to be applied in sending a few of your best ewes to one of the best tups to be found in your vicinity—I say one of the best tups, for I would suggest that the very best tup to be found is not consequently the best for your purpose. Great expense and trouble are in all countries, and especially in this, thrown away by a want of attention to the true principles of breeding. In entering on breeding, you ought as a first consideration, to lay down definitely the qualities you wish to attain; be it long wool, be it short, be it fat, be it leanness, be it speed, be it sluggishness, or be it a combination of these qualities; keep your object ever in view, and never without some good reason swerve to either side; you may seek by one cross to impart a fine head, fine quarters, fine wool, or any other quality to your breed; but remember that by persisting in this crossing, you are not only engraving this one desirable point, but mixing up all the other points also; many of which may be in direct opposition to the character you have all along been striving to maintain. There is one consideration, however, which seems to have become a fixed axiom in breeding, that while the male should have every point possible of symmetry and beauty, size is only a secondary consideration. In the female, on the other hand, every point may be in perfection, but where there is a deficiency in size, there is always a danger of a want of due development in the offspring. There is of course a limit to which you may carry this idea; but, it was a favourite one of the successful and justly celebrated Bakewell, and has been verified in the general experience of breeders. I remember (not personally, but as a family tradition,) an instance in point, when the Cullies, the first breeders of the Leicesters on the Borders, and the intimates of Bakewell, started the introduction of this breed into Northumberland—and they were in the habit of holding an annual letting and sale of Tups, in which they were very successful for two or three years, and the new sheep became quite the rage. On this, some

Yorkshiresmen bethought themselves of trying their success in a trade so fortunate, and exposed in Morpeth market a lot of Tups of enormous size, with heavy curly wool. These were at once bought up as far outstripping their finer competitors, produced by the Cullies, and the latter gentlemen found their occupation rapidly going, if not gone. If I mistake not, this lasted two years, until the result of the cross on the small county and fine Leicester ewes began to show itself, when the next season the Yorkshiresmen, with rueful countenances, had to carry back their now large impotations by the road they came; and a Lincoln Tup, for I fancy by the description, of that character they were, has not been seen in Northumberland since. Under the mode of management we now speak of, it will seldom be found desirable to keep the average of the ewe flock beyond the age of five years. A number of this age might be cast every season, and either sold off in the fall, or held over on turnips until toward spring, when they would generally command a good price. In entertaining at all the thought of an extended sheep husbandry, we must not be alarmed at the fear of some additional labour; a dozen to 20 sheep may fend for themselves on a farm and do well, with almost no attention, but as the number extends, the competition becomes greater, and their care must then be made a distinct object, if success is hoped for.

But we are now arrived at the home of the practical farmer, his snug barn yard where he can bid defiance to the Chemist, Geologist, and every other Theorist, who has dared to enter the lists with him. Give me a good muck heap before all your hydro-sulphuretted, desiccated composts.

The calm stillness of our Indian summer, the rich coloring of the fading woods, the rustling carpet of leaves under your feet; not unaccompanied by the still white frost of morning, through which the sun urges his ruddy beams, remind us that another season is at hand, with its due proportion of cares and pleasures. Such signs mark the time to select your breeding ewes. Though during the previous busy period they may very properly have ranged the stubbles in a somewhat neglected state, it is now desirable to put them on as good feed as you can command, a rough oat stubble, or, if your new grass be at all flush, sniffer them to have the benefit of it before it is cut down by the earliest frost. I have always found it best to have the ewes rising in condition, at the time they go to tup. Mark me, I want them rising in condition, not dead fat. To rise, they must have been previously somewhat leaner. Nothing, however, seems to me more injurious than to have the ewe too fat during the time of gestation, a few white turnips or rape would be found of great value at this season.

Meantime allowing our flocks to enjoy themselves on the best we can afford, let us make our winter arrangements for their accommodation. For this purpose, a situation should be chosen where a dry sheltered shed can be erected, wet is the sheep's enemy in Spring, and especially at lambing time; the yard of this shed should if possible have a Southern or South Eastern expo-