

breed of the present day is by no means so deficient in these respects as formerly, and in most districts the crop is considered to be below an average, when the half of the ewes do not produce twins, while even this proportion is frequently exceeded.

After the lambs are dropt, their successful treatment consists in a careful attention to keep them in a progressively condition. Never, for a single day, must the wants and comforts of the animals be neglected. The great secret of successful feeding consists in cleanliness, and regularity in receiving their food.

In reference to the *locality best adapted* for Leicesters; the county in which it originated, together with its constitution and general habits, point at once a naturally fertile or highly cultivated soil as its habitat. In some districts it has entirely superseded the original breeds. In others, where it has been used as a cross, the increased value of the flock has gone hand in hand with whatever change in appearance marks an improved breed. There are some of its over-ardent admirers who appear to think that every breed of sheep in the three kingdoms cannot fail to be improved by a greater or less infusion of Leicester blood, irrespective altogether of altitude and climate. That such a cross is most beneficial in many cases, is abundantly proved by the success which has attended its adoption among sheep occupying districts of low or medium altitude. There is, however, a limit beyond which it would be unsafe to introduce the pure breed, and others where even the keeping of crosses would be ruinous. The experiment has been tried upon some of the most favourably-situated Scottish borders. Whether time, or the "march of improvement," may still further enlarge its already extended ranges, it is difficult to divine. The effects of draining and planting in affording abundance of shelter, and ameliorating the climate, are well known; and when landlords and tenants have become more fully alive to their respective interests in supplying the present crying deficiency, a future generation may enjoy the double benefit of being less dependent on foreign countries for their supply of foreign timber, and—freed from the dread of storms—that great cause of so much anxiety and loss to the stockmaster now-a-days, may be able to introduce a tender though profitable sheep, in localities where none but the hardiest races could subsist.

As already stated, the New Leicester was for many years made a complete monopoly. At present, when any individual wishes to possess a superior flock of some particular breed, he can begin at once, by purchasing cast shearlings, or old ewes, from breeders of eminence, but for many years such animals could not obtained for such purposes from the Dishley Society. The owners of the best flocks were in the habit either of "spaying" those ewe lambs which did not suit their purpose, or of selling, and their cast ewes to be slaughtered immediately; some of

them attending even personally to see them killed. Mr. Bakewell had, upon his farm, some water meadows, which were flooded early in the season, that a fresh growth might be obtained the same autumn. Upon these he put his superfluous stock for a short time. At first their improvement was rapid, but they soon became tainted by rot, the early symptoms of which his practised eye immediately detected. They were then sold without delay, but were thus rendered unfit for breeding purposes, the principal end he had in view.

It has been said, that for some years past the Leicester, in different parts of the country, has been on the decrease, and that this has arisen from a change in the public taste, extra-fed mutton being less relished than formerly by all classes. Hence many farmers have substituted a crossed flock in place of their Leicesters, while others, from the facility which the great extension of crossing in hill districts affords in procuring lambs, have relinquished the combined practice of breeding and feeding, restricting themselves exclusively to the latter department.

Though graziers are justified in attending to the production of that article which best suits the market, there is no reason for alarm lest the Leicesters either deteriorate or become extinct as a breed. For crossing, it stands unrivalled, and the demand for rams for this purpose alone is already almost incredible, and yearly increasing. In 1850, at the annual September market of Kelso, in Roxburghshire, there were upwards of 500 Leicester rams sold, most of them being purchased by owners of Cheviot flocks from the border hills! Besides the many disposed of in other markets and privately, this one fact, combined with immense number of crossed lambs yearly brought out from the other grazing districts of Scotland, speaks to a large and steady demand for Leicester rams, sufficient to induce numbers of qualified men, whose farms are adapted for such a purpose, to turn their attention to the production of suitable animals.

#### EXPERIMENTAL OR MODEL FARMS.

The following paper on the most judicious method of conducting the experimental farm, by J. M. Goodiff, Esq., Granard, was read. The views contained in the paper excited considerable discussion, in which Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Hanson, and several members, took part:—

Perhaps I may be permitted to offer, in the pages of the journal of the society, some observations on the experimental and model farm that the Chemico Agricultural Society of Ulster is about to institute for the furtherance of its inquiries, and for examples to the farming community. I would, however, first say, that the extended publication of the journal, and more especially in connexion, with this farm, appears to me most judicious; as it will afford the means of conveying the details of its experiences and economy