

PROTECTING THE FLOCK

The common knowledge that hill land is the best for sheep, is explained by the fact that the lower moist lands, offer more favorable conditions for the incubation of the eggs of the various worms that are parasitic on the sheep. Such lands with their more luxuriant vegetation also offer protection to a greater degree, to the young worms until they reach their host animal. On the hills the winds and the rain move a large part of the worm eggs to the lower areas, thereby concentrating the infective principle on the low ground. The scant vegetation of the hill lands permits the drying out influence of the sun's rays to create conditions unfavorable to the continued life of the worm egg and the young worm. The lower areas have shallow pools or swampy places formed by the water draining away from the higher areas. This drainage or surface water very frequently contains countless thousands of infective worm eggs or larva, and the lamb or sheep drinking such water is taking all the risks leading to worm infestation. Pasture fields on which small pools of water form after a rain are a source of danger, as the sheep will drink from such pools.

Sheep should be supplied with pure drinking water, preferably from wells and delivered into troughs that are well above the ground surface. Drinking from swift running creeks or springs offers but little danger of infection, but care should be taken to keep the sheep and lambs away from stagnant pools and ditch water.



Figure 2.

"Worms made the difference." Treatment costing less than 5 cents would have saved this lamb. It pays to treat the flock spring and autumn and to change the pasture frequently.