

type, eminently adapted for its own particular environment, but unsuitable for the low-lying wet country on which the Romney sheep was developed. And so on throughout England and Scotland we see particular breeds domiciled in different districts, each largely confined to its own district and each suited to the particular soil and climatic conditions existing there. Perhaps the British farmer is at times somewhat too conservative and too parochial, so to speak, in this matter, yet the principle is a sound one and one which could be followed out in New Zealand with profit to a much greater extent than is the case at the present time. True, on many properties this principle is adopted, but often the smaller owner, who runs sheep in conjunction with other stock and with cropping, has to go to the saleyards for his purchases, and under present-day conditions he cannot always afford, when purchasing ewes, to be too particular as to breed, as he might thereby miss his chance of buying; but he can, at any rate, always do his best in this direction, and he can always secure purebred rams, and these should certainly be of the right breed for his country, with, of course, due regard for the production of wool, and of good-quality fat lambs when required. But, with the ram, breed is not the only consideration: care must be exercised to select well-furnished vigorous animals, well woolled throughout. Thus one principle of profitable sheep-farming is the maintenance of a flock bred under such conditions as to render it best adapted to the class of country and climate prevailing. Another is to take all possible steps to maintain the sheep in sound health and condition. This requires good management, and, as already stated, it is often a difficult matter to make conditions of health harmonize with commercial necessities. On poor country, be it high or low, provided it is not ill drained and wet, there is very little mortality among sheep, except as a result of extremes of weather; but on rich country considerable trouble often occurs through the feeding-conditions being really too good to a greater or lesser extent, partly according to the breed of sheep kept.

#### MANAGEMENT OF THE EWES.

Breeding-ewes are the principal sufferers, they being very apt, especially when carrying their lambs, to put on fat freely, to become lazy and take too little exercise, and to degenerate in health and vigour in consequence. Well-marked instances of the results of a combination of too much good feed and too little exercise are seen in two conditions occurring in ewes before lambing, and known respectively as ante-partum paralysis and ante-partum extrusion of the vagina. (See Bulletin No. 15, by Dr. Gilruth, "Two Diseases affecting Pregnant Ewes," which contains a full description of these diseases.) The first-mentioned was formerly principally met with in Canterbury and Otago, but of late