

The result was most satisfactory, only one or two isolated cases occurring instead of a considerable number as had been the case in previous years. There is, I know, still some diversity of opinion among sheepowners as to the cause of this trouble, and this is no doubt encouraged by the fact that occasionally a case occurs in a ewe not in high condition. But occasional cases may occur from other causes, as, for instance, constipation, indigestion causing distension of the first stomach or the bowels, through the formation of gas produced by the fermentation of imperfectly masticated or improperly digested food. Retention of urine, again, caused by the muscles controlling the neck of the bladder not relaxing and allowing the urine to be passed when it should be, and consequent straining on the part of the ewe, is another very probable direct cause. But this, 'as with digestive trouble, constipation, &c., is far more likely to occur in a fat lazy ewe than in one in less high condition.

LAMB-TROUBLES.

Another source of loss to the sheep-farmer, if the necessity for proper preventive measures be not acted upon, lies in the tendency of lambs—usually single lambs—to develop a condition of acute congestion of the kidneys, due to overnutrition when their dams are on good feed and are yielding a plenitude of rich milk. Earlier in this article I indicated the necessity for providing plenty of good feed for ewes suckling their lambs as preferable to putting them on it before their lambs are born. This is especially necessary for the production of early lambs of good freezing-quality, but the lambs need careful watching in order to ensure that they do not suffer as a consequence of too plentiful and too rich a food-supply. Twin lambs, having to share the milk of one ewe, are rarely affected with kidney-congestion, single lambs being the chief sufferers. The remedy is simple, seeing that the trouble in most cases makes its appearance before the lambs are cut and tailed, what is needed being something which will counteract the plethoric condition of the system and the consequent overworking of the kidneys; this is provided by the bleeding which results from these operations. This relieves the plethora and enables the system to regain its normal balance, the lambs consequently continuing to do well after a quick recovery from the temporary check. Whenever fat lusty lambs commence to die the whole of those in the flock should at once be cut and tailed. This will usually stop the trouble, though occasionally it occurs later, a little time after marking. Then the blood-letting resulting from taking a little bit more off the tail does good. Or removing ewes and lambs for a little time to a poorer pasture and ensuring a sufficient amount of exercise is of great value as a measure to counteract the mortality, though it may throw back