

in condition the more backward lambs. When carrying out the operations of cutting and tailing, care must be taken to ensure that any knife used is perfectly clean. I well remember a heavy mortality due to blood-poisoning which occurred in a lot of lambs which were operated upon with an unsterilized knife often used by its owner for skinning dead sheep. The practice of searing the stump of the tail of lambs is often adopted, and where the lambs are not in really high condition it is a good practice. The lamb which is not plethoric falls back temporarily through loss of blood and searing helps to prevent this. But with fat, lusty single lambs a little bleeding does no harm at all, but may have the effect of keeping alive good marketable lambs which otherwise would be lost. At one time this mortality which annually occurs in lambs through congestion of the kidneys (though now much less in extent than formerly) was largely ascribed by owners to the reputed evil effect of wool-balls in the stomach, many having examined dead lambs and, finding these accumulations of wool, blamed them for being the cause of death. This was entirely fallacious, and though it is not absolutely impossible that a "wool-ball" might under special circumstances work mischief in the digestive system I have never yet seen a case or heard of one where it was proved to have caused death. As a matter of fact, a considerable proportion of fat healthy lambs are found, when slaughtered, to have these wool-balls present in the stomach (abomasum). Last season arrangements were made to collect some records on this point, and at six different freezing-works the stomachs of a number of good, healthy lambs were examined, after slaughter, in order to determine whether wool-balls were present or not. In all 4,043 were examined, and of these 20 per cent. were found to contain wool-balls of varying sizes. The sheep-farmer has no need to trouble himself about wool-balls. What he should realize, however, is that in sheep-breeding and sheep-management the greatest measure of success is gained by the man who uses his brains and knowledge to the best advantage in fostering the natural processes of body-development and fattening to the greatest extent compatible with the maintenance of health. To attempt to go beyond that means not only a risk, but a probability of loss.

*(To be continued.)*

**NO breeder has ever permanently advanced any character in an animal who has neglected to maintain constitution in the process.**