

The sheep-maggot fly has been known to be present in the Dominion for some years past, and at times causes trouble. Though we cannot hope to rid the country of this insect, yet by careful shepherding and precautionary measures it can be prevented from doing any serious harm to our flocks. It deposits its eggs on dirty wool, and the filthier this is the better it seems to suit the fly. The maggots hatched out from the eggs afterwards burrow into the skin, or, if a slight wound be present, it affords them a still easier means of gaining entrance. The obvious precautionary measures are to maintain the sheep in as cleanly a condition in regard to their wool as possible. Proper dipping, crutching, dagging, &c., are necessary; and if scouring be present care should especially be taken to keep the posterior parts clear of dung-clogged wool, and, further, measures should be taken, by change of feed, &c., to stop the scouring if possible. If a wound is sustained it should be promptly dressed with tar. In the case of a sheep being "struck," the wool at the part should be closely clipped off and strong antiseptic dressings applied to the part, all maggots found being carefully removed and destroyed.

DIETETIC DISORDERS.

In order to maintain sheep in good health and condition care is necessary in the matter of the class of pasture on which they are placed. Rough, rank grass, especially of autumn growth, is not a suitable food for sheep, and at times considerable loss occurs through sheep being grazed on feed of this kind. A form of chronic indigestion is set up, resulting in a certain amount of fermentation occurring in the food in the stomachs or the bowels, which is apt to cause trouble in some form or other. In some cases the sheep simply die, in others they do badly, having fits of scouring alternated by constipation. Another condition resulting from this improper feeding is the development of an inflamed condition of the skin of the face and ears, causing such severe irritation that the affected animals, in their endeavours to obtain relief, rub their heads against fence-posts, logs, or on the ground-surface, often causing abrasions of the skin when doing so. This breaking of the skin enables outside germs to gain entrance and set up a condition of dry gangrene, the animals then presenting a most unsightly appearance. The whole of the skin of the head is converted into a sort of dry scab, with matter beneath, the eyes are inflamed and often sightless, and unless proper treatment be applied in time death frequently