

are told that poverty produces the pests, as poor sheep are always more infested than fat ones, and this is certainly the case. The poor sheep do not produce these parasites, but prove a congenial breeding-ground. A sheep-farmer a short time ago told me quite seriously that he was sure that ticks were transformed into flying insects, and quitted the sheep at a certain time during the year. Perhaps wings carry some of them off in a certain way, as when the fleece becomes long in early summer ticks are found on the outer extremities of the wool, and then starlings have a good time. Spontaneous generation of insect-life is out of the question, and if our flocks were once cleared of ticks no return need be feared, unless they come from imported sheep, which can be easily prevented.

Most of the poisonous dips give satisfactory results if used carefully, but some of the directions for use are rather ridiculous, as they allow a different strength for lambs, long-woolled sheep, and merinos. Surely, if a weaker mixture will kill ticks on lambs it will also kill them on grown sheep. Non-poisonous dips are not satisfactory; I found when I used them many years ago that my flock always suffered to some extent from ticks and lice.

I am perfectly aware that all I have stated in this paper will be quite useless as far as the eradication of ticks is concerned unless our Stock Act is amended and similar sections to those formerly dealing with scab brought into operation in connection with ticks—which is hardly likely to take place. If dipping could be confined to a short period soon after shearing it would mitigate the evil considerably, but if all our sheepowners were compelled to dip carefully during that time I am quite sure that ticks would soon be eradicated. We, however, know well that a number of our sheepowners will not exercise sufficient care, either in mustering or dipping, and unless compulsion is exercised we cannot hope to stamp out this curse to our flocks. The same apathy exists in England relative to scab, where it has existed for centuries. In the last report I saw it was stated that there had been one hundred outbreaks there in excess of those of the previous year; and this occurs in a country where there should be no difficulty in effecting a complete cure of the disease in a very short time.

In conclusion, I may state that I have had to deal with my flock under nearly all the conditions that sheep are likely to go through. I have had them swarming with lice, with considerable loss of wool; I have had their wool almost a chocolate colour through ticks, and consequently impaired in value. But I then dipped at any time during the season when it suited me, and chiefly with non-poisonous dips. Eventually I used a good poisonous dip shortly after shearing. Lice at once disappeared, and I have not seen one for many years