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BREEDING OF ROMNEY-CROSS SHEEP.

WOOL-IMPROVEMENT DEMONSTRATION AT WALLACEVILLE.

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IN view of recent statements by the Bradford trade alleging deterioration in New Zealand Romney-cross wool—chiefly as regards increasing hairiness or medullation of fibre—it will be of interest to sheep-farmers to record the practical breeding operations carried out by the Department of Agriculture with a small ewe flock at the Wallaceville Veterinary Laboratory Farm, near Wellington, during the past five years. The work, it will be noted, was commenced well before the Bradford criticisms in question made themselves heard. Without entering into this particular controversy on one side or the other, it may be claimed that the Wallaceville results have provided a valuable demonstration of what can be accomplished in wool-improvement by any farmer within a comparatively short period. It has been shown that Romney-cross wool can be readily bred with a high degree of purity of fibre—in fact, that this, our predominant crossbred-wool product, is not inherently or necessarily defective as regards its internal structure.

RECORD OF WALLACEVILLE FARM FLOCK, 1920 TO 1924.

The ewe flock in 1920 was a mixed one of both Lincoln-Romney and Romney-Lincoln cross. The ewes were a fairly good line as regards constitution, but there were many defects in conformation, such as overlong faces, narrowness between the eyes, legginess, and lightness and roundness in the bone. The wool grown by the flock, which ranged