

the unyarded lambs was approximately 4 per cent. Reckoning a lamb's value at the moderate figure of £1, a saving of 3 per cent. of lambs in this mob of 1,900 was equivalent to £57. It is a noteworthy fact that the death among the yarded lambs occurred either in the yards or just before yarding. It would appear from this that possibly an interval of seven days is too long, and that about five days would be better.

Another farmer had nine lambs die in a certain paddock. He was then persuaded to yard the mob for twenty-four hours; no more deaths occurred here for eight days, when one was found sick and died later; the lambs were then yarded again, and no more died. In another paddock where a heavy death-rate occurred last season three lambs died; the mob was then placed on a ploughed paddock for twenty-four hours, after which the deaths stopped.

One more case is worth quoting. A farmer who had lost sixteen lambs out of 270-odd was of opinion that nothing would check the death-rate; but as he happened to have a ploughed paddock conveniently placed he agreed to put the whole mob there for twenty-four hours. Only two more died after this was done.

#### SUMMARY.

The results of this season's experiments in prevention of the disease may be summarized as follows:—

(1) Overstocking paddocks from lambing onwards is useless, and apt to be actually harmful.

(2) So far as Central Otago, at any rate, is concerned, the check in the death-rate caused by marking is negligible; therefore this operation may be regarded as quite inadequate as a preventive measure.

(3) Exercise is certainly beneficial.

(4) Yarding nightly is cumbersome, and appears also to be of very doubtful benefit, besides giving the lambs a check.

(5) Yarding for twenty-four hours once a week has given very good results, with the additional advantage that it is the easiest method of all those tried. It is practicable on almost every farm where the losses occur, and a great point in its favour is that it gives neither ewes nor lambs any noticeable check. It is for the farmer himself to judge whether an interval of seven days or a shorter one of, say, five days does most good in his own particular case.

There seems to be a feeling amongst farmers who suffer from this mortality that preventive measures mean taking a great deal of trouble, and that it is very doubtful if benefit is derived. The foregoing outline shows definitely that a considerable measure of relief is obtainable. The principal difficulty is that on most farms the ewes are not drafted into mobs as they lamb. It is but rarely that the size of the paddocks precludes this. In the great majority of cases it is a practice which might easily be undertaken, and the comparatively few farmers who do it state that with a little foresight and organization it is quite simple and takes very little time, besides making subsequent handling of the flock much easier. Very little thought will show that the preventive measures here advocated can only be properly applied where this system of drafting has been carried out.