

*E. S. (Wedderburn).*—First deformities in 1926; about thirty in 300 two-tooths, while flock made up of 1,000 ewes, crossbreds and half-breds. Whole flock running with ram till 31st July on grass-paddock with natural tussock. Five hundred were then given turnips; of these, 300 two-tooths had a run-off on to natural rough tussock, and 200 had no run-off. Deformities occurred on the tussock run-off only. The remaining 500 ewes were taken to another place in May, six miles distant, after being tupped by the same rams. No deformities occurred. The rams were supposed to be at fault, so were changed for 1927. In that year the flock was treated similarly, but had turnips during August. Ninety-five deformities appeared in a lot of 350 of two-tooth to eight-tooth ewes left on the same paddock as the 300 lot in 1926. The remainder of 800 were in another paddock till 31st August, when they were moved to the property six miles distant. No deformities occurred from these ewes. The run-off from turnips consisted of a natural tussock pasture of 260 acres, which was used from 1st September to 1st October. Ewes of all ages and of two breeds were affected. In 1928, following advice from the Agriculture Department's officers, the owner turned the ewes as usual, but gave a run-off on to good grass pasture. No deformities occurred. The same rams were used with the same ewes in 1928 as in 1927. Ewes which had deformed lambs in 1927 were marked, but gave birth to normal lambs in 1928.

*W. S. (Wedderburn).*—The first deformities were seen in 1929, when 520 ewes gave 150 deformed lambs. The ewes had been bought from several different places, and were half-breds and crossbreds. Romney rams were used; 300 of the ewes were tupped in a rough fescue-paddock, and the remainder on rough tussock, and kept there till the end of June. They were put together on 60 acres of turnips on 28th June till 16th September with a run-off on to 200 acres of rough tussock pasture. Each night they were driven off to a second tussock-paddock of 300 acres with no clovers or grass undergrowth. This owner lost many ewes from septicaemia while assisting them to lamb.

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*Phormium Investigations.*—Referring to this matter at a recent meeting of the Research Council, the Chairman stated: "Breeding and selection work is continuing under Dr. Yeates at Massey College, where several promising strains are meriting attention. At the same time "yellow-leaf" disease research is being actively pushed forward. This trouble—possibly being of the virus type—is proving exceedingly difficult of solution. Chemical work is under way, and several methods of softening and bleaching fibre are being actively subjected to investigation."

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*Yeasts and Moulds in Butter.*—Reporting on the organization of the Irish Co-operative Creameries Association, Mr. W. Wright, Inspector of Dairy-produce, London, remarks: "In addition to grading there is a system of taking samples of butter at the grading-store, Dublin, of all boxes of butter graded, both for bacterial and chemical examination. These examinations include yeasts and moulds. Samples for the latter are taken from the butter at the opposite corners of the upper surface of the box. Yeasts and moulds are looked upon here as being intimately connected with dirt due to uncleanness of utensils, &c., and so much stress has been put on this particular feature that inspectors are advised immediately when butter has been found to contain yeasts and moulds, with instructions to visit the factory where the butter was made and investigate the cause of the trouble."