may be stated as follows: (1) The shed should be cleaned thoroughly before the start of shearing; (2) the sheep should be allowed to empty and be dagged before shearing; (3) every care must be taken to keep the wool clean during every stage through which it passes; (4) only wool which does not match the bulk of the fleece should be removed in the skirting operation; (5) when the wool is classed, what is necessary is a few distinct lines with no fancy lots; (6) with moderate to large-sized flocks the piece wool should be divided so that all wool light in the grease is in one lot and all wool heavy in the grease in another; (7) all stained wool should be kept by itself; (8) when the wool is pressed it is a mistake to endeavour to get too much into the bales, especially if the wool is at all inclined to be heavy in the grease or not properly dry.

Conclusion.

It may be said quite safely that if the sheep-farmer is to do his share in meeting the present economic crisis and at the same time prepare for the greater future competition in the world's markets he must be prepared to improve his methods of breeding, feeding, and management. The real foundation for such improvement can only be laid when a scheme of testing is evolved and put into more or less general practice. It is freely admitted that in dairy-cow testing a great deal of the benefit derived from the system comes from the better care and management of the stock and the spirit of emulation that is engendered. Although the system of testing the pulling-power of draught horses has been started only recently in America, it is claimed that already it has created a greater consideration for care, management, training, and the breeding of better farm horses. There can be but little doubt that sheep-testing would also encourage an improved standard in the general management of our sheep, and if such a system accomplished nothing else it would justify itself.

Some of the improvements suggested in this article may appear trivial or of little importance, but it must be remembered that any fault in the wool which prevents it being used for the highest class of goods for which it may be suitable lowers the value, even though slightly, and so affects the total return. Therefore, in the selection of breeding-stock care should be taken to see that the type of wool is that which is most likely to suit the climatic conditions and at the same time be as free as possible from defects, combined with a maximum yield of fleece. In order that such selection may be worth while a sound scheme of breeding should be laid down, and the sheep so fed and managed that they are able to produce the maximum quantity of good-quality wool. Then when the wool is shorn it should be so treated and handled that it will be displayed for sale to the best advantage.

Maori-bug Flavour in Cream.—In a recent note Mr. G. F. V. Morgan, Bacteriologist to the Dairy Division, states: "A streptococcus resembling in cultural characteristics a type isolated in the past from pasteurized milk for cheese-making was isolated from the cream sample supplied. This organism, which seems to be a definite type of lactic streptococcus, produces a burnt flavour in both milk and cream, resulting finally in a butter which, on keeping, has what has been described as "Maori-bug flavour." I have recently recultured a strain of this organism, and the same flavour is produced. I would advise special attention to cooling in order to keep the streptococcus family down as a whole."