

Some of the farm loss through pigs being born prematurely, or imperfectly developed, or dead, is undoubtedly due to defective feeding of the pregnant sow. Successful breeders have shown that the supposed danger of sows being "too fat at farrowing" does not arise if the sow is active and healthy. As in the case of other stock, pigs provide evidence that better feeding of the pregnant mother results in heavier young being born. On the other hand, pregnant sows underfed, either through lack of green feed in dry autumn periods, or poor-quality herbage and no supplement, such as meat-meal and roots or milk, during the winter, are more liable to the above losses.

#### LOSS AFTER WEANING.

Further wastage occurs between eight and twelve weeks. This appears to be one of the most susceptible periods of the pig's life. It follows directly on weaning, and unless the creep system or other method has been developed to make the change from mother's milk less of a shock, and unless care and conditions at this stage are good, the pig suffers from the change in diet, it has frequently to contend with older pigs at feeding, and is exposed to the hazards of overcrowding and dirt. Even if the pig survives this period, under bad conditions it may contract some infection which, while not fatal, renders its carcass at a later stage unexportable or even unfit for consumption.

Fawcett, in a statistical survey of the position for 1934, estimated by a comparison of the number of pigs that should have been available for slaughter with those actually put through that there was a discrepancy of 125,000, or, in other words, a death-rate of 125,000 pigs.

*Bacillus suispestifer* infection is an important bacterial factor in the mortality at the eight to twelve weeks' period and will be dealt with later.

#### CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION AND REJECTION.

The following are the chief causes of condemnation and rejection: tuberculosis, pleurisy, peritonitis, septic wounds, faulty castration, arthritis, nephritis, bruises, and skin-lesions. It should be emphasized that, with the possible exception of tuberculosis, all are the results of defective management and are to that extent preventable.

McIlwaine, in this *Journal*, October, 1935, writes, "There is no doubt whatever that if greater attention is paid to the cardinal matters—improved housing, feeding, and improved conditions—the alarming mortality in young pigs would be reduced to reasonable proportions." To quote again H. M. Peirson, "The more pig-recording is extended the more definite has it become that management is the biggest factor in successful pig-keeping . . . It is still unsatisfactory to find that the pig is the first animal to be neglected on the farm. At haymaking and holiday-time the weights of many litters shows a considerable decline." What are the reasons for this? One might suggest failure to recognize the extent of loss and the value of housing and hygiene, overwork, and lack of sufficient time to attend to pigs, or a method of pig-farming not suited to the soil type and locality. Success in pig-farming is usually under one of the following conditions: Locality highly suitable with dry subsoil, sunny aspect and abundant natural shelter, plant big enough to employ one or more men the whole time, or else the owner or one of his staff keenly interested in pigs and able to take the time necessary to attend to them.