

the half-bred, and the lambing percentage of the Merino is usually about 10 per cent. lower than that of the half-bred. In addition to this, the slower-maturing Merino is not put to the ram until she is a four-tooth. The half-bred ewe in some cases is put to the ram as a two-tooth, but the ruling practice in the county is to draft off for mating the well-developed two-tooths, which on the harder country will be about 50 per cent. of the total.

The Merino is, however, a better sheep for the snow than the half-bred, and musters off the high country better. Slightly more Merinos can be carried on the same area. The man utilizing half-breds has, however, the satisfaction of knowing that if the price of wool fails seriously he still has a second string to his bow in the superior half-bred carcass.

The preference for the Romney half-bred is on those runs which, although not the roughest, tend to face from the sun and to be wet and sour. These conditions arise on the front country around Mount Somers, and on such country the Romney half-bred is hardier and gives a slightly better lambing percentage, and it is favoured by store-lamb buyers and the purchasers of mature ewes for fat-lamb production. This conclusion has been arrived at not only by the comparison of different flocks on different runs, but by the experiences of men who ran the English Leicester half-bred and have since changed to the Romney strain on the same country.

CONCLUSIONS.

(1) There is considerable variation in existing types of sheep and breeding methods employed. Improvement by selection and fixation of suitable types would be an advantage.

(2) In many instances fencing is inadequate, and there is need to facilitate the following points of management:—

- (a) The use of summer and winter country, with the conservation of winter feed, and to reduce the risk of stock losses through snow.
- (b) That a depleted area be spelled, and the seeding of existing vegetation be allowed.
- (c) To extend the use of cattle as a means of control of rank growth rather than indiscriminate burning. Burning once every three to four years, except where growth is rank, is considered sufficient.
- (d) That the establishment of plantations and shelter-belts be extended to provide timber, to shelter stock, and to facilitate cultivation under adverse conditions.

THE CHINESE GOOSEBERRY.

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THE Chinese gooseberry (*Actinidia chinensis*) is related to a family of climbing shrubs often cultivated for their handsome foliage, and at times for the edible fruit produced on some species.

Actinidia chinensis is a deciduous, dioecious, climbing shrub or vine. Although recognized as being frost-tender, it appears to withstand light frosts fairly well. Apparently this plant is cultivated to some