

GRAPH 2.

The effect of various sized monthly doses of cobalt compared with normal bi-weekly doses in preventing "bush sickness" in ewes.

140 mgs. of cobalt once a month. The results are shown in Graph 1. The treated lambs responded immediately, and with one exception made remarkably fine gains. From June 7, 1939, to February 28, 1940, a period of 266 days, they made an average gain of 62lb. If one lamb which lost weight (probably from some cause other than "bush sickness") be excluded, the average gain was 71lb. and the average weight on February 28, when the sheep were 16 months old, was 135lb. During the same period nine of the 20 untreated lambs died, and with one exception the others all lost weight. These results suggested that monthly drenches were quite effective in curing "bush sickness" if very large doses were given.

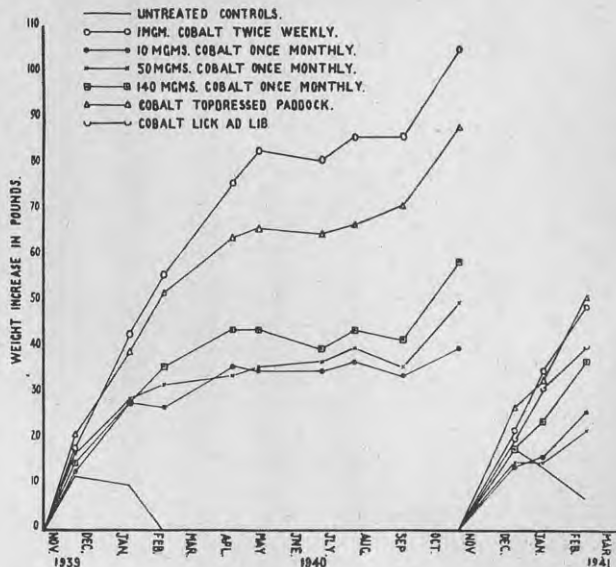
Unfortunately, however, none of these lambs had been treated by the standard methods of grazing on cobalt-topdressed paddocks, giving cobalt licks, or normal doses of cobalt in drenches at short intervals. It was thus not possible to say how this method of treatment compared with those more generally practised. A further experiment was therefore conducted. Shortly after lambing was completed in 1939, 34 Romney ewes which had been running in a "bush sick" paddock since July, 1938, were divided into five groups. Seventeen were kept as untreated controls, five received 1 mg.

of cobalt twice weekly, and the other three groups of four ewes each received 10, 50, and 140 mgs. of cobalt respectively once a month. The experiment was started on October 26, 1939, and ended on February 13, 1941. The lambs born in 1939 and 1940 received the same treatment as the ewes, and drenching began when they were about

one month old. The results are shown in Graphs 2 and 3.

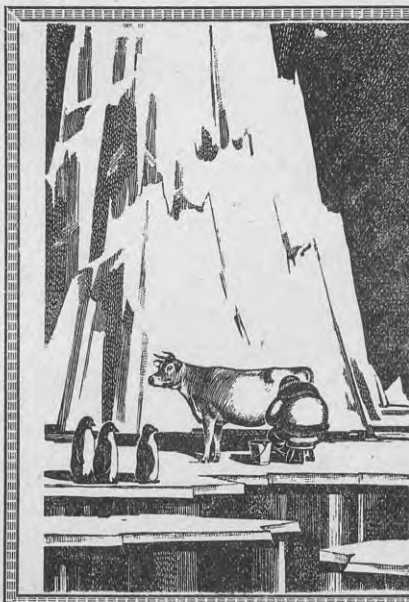
### Average Weights

It will be seen in Graph 2 that the untreated ewes maintained a fairly constant weight until the 1940 lambing, after which they lost weight rapidly. By the end of the experiment only



GRAPH 3.

The effect of various sized monthly doses of cobalt compared with normal bi-weekly doses and with cobalt licks and cobalt topdressing in preventing "bush sickness" in lambs.



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