

An interesting case of congenital goitre in lambs was investigated during September. The loss involved from 90 to 100 lambs. The full particulars of the outbreak and the history of the flock over the season is of direct interest to sheepowners.

# CONGENITAL GOITRE IN LAMBS

*It is proposed to forward soil and pasture samples from the farm for analysis and iodine estimation. A salt mixture with potassium iodide is to be used throughout the year so that the sheep may have access to it at all times.*

By

C. V. DAYUS, District Superintendent, and B. A. TAYLOR and G. A. THOMPSON, Veterinarians, Dunedin.

**T**HE farm consists of 140 acres of low-lying flat land, a portion of which is alluvial and the remainder drained swampland. This has a clay sub-soil, containing decaying vegetation, although not peaty, and a portion of it still grows swamp grasses, such as floating sweet grass, knee-jointed fox-tail, creeping bent, etc. The area was once subject to flooding, but this is now largely controlled by the excavation of a contour channel and the erection of a protective stop-bank.

Drainage is still not perfect, but has very much improved in the last five years. Most of the area consists of very old-established pastures sown down with ryegrass, red and white clover, cocksfoot, and Timothy, and some 45 acres have been resown in the past six years. In addition to this flat area, the farm consists of about 390 acres of hill country, comprising native tussock and grass.

The present owner has been on this farm about eight years, and at first went in for dairying, changing over to sheep about four years ago.

Because of the nature of the flat land, it has never had the reputation for "doing" young stock well, calves and hoggets. At present, it is the custom to winter the two-tooths on the hill country. In the growing season the flat carries considerable feed, and heavy stocking is possible—five sheep per acre, including cattle to keep down the rank growth. Older stock getting past the growing stage do well, and last season fat lambs were got away off the mothers, which was a new procedure attributed by the owner to the use of lime.

## Fertiliser Used

About five years ago the paddocks concerned received a dressing of 10cwt. of lime and 2½cwt. of superphosphate per acre. In 1940 the whole area (140 acres) received one ton of lime per acre. Some was applied in the autumn of last year, but most went on in the spring.

In 1941 the area of flat carried 550 Romney cross ewes all winter without any other feed (four ewes per acre). The ewes were mixed ages, four-tooth to aged. Actually, all these ewes, with the exception of a few bought in (which will be referred to later), had been on the same area since they were two-tooths.

All the paddocks were in occupation during the winter, and the ewes received no change-round (the first time this has occurred) until close to lambing, when they were put together on more occasions to leave some paddocks free into which to place the ewes as they lambed.



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