



13

Commencement of long blow.



14

The long blow.



15

Coming down to last side.

### The Last Side

The first blows on the last side depend on which method was used to open up the neck, as in Figs. 10 and 11. Some shearers clean around both ears on this stroke, others clean around one ear only. If only one ear has been done, it is now necessary to complete around the ears and jaws and then down the neck to the last shoulder, as shown in Fig. 15. At this stage the shearer's left leg is now withdrawn and placed at the back of the sheep, as in Fig. 16. A common hold differing from that shown in Fig. 16 is that instead of holding the sheep's head in the lap with one arm, it is tucked between the legs and held by the legs only. This leaves the other arm free to manipulate the leg if necessary, and it also places the sheep in a more bowed position, which facilitates shearing.

Fig. 17 shows how necessary it is to pull up the slack skin, but if the head is held between the legs, this would not be necessary, as the body is bowed and all the slack is taken up.

By the time the last leg is reached the head can be withdrawn and the sheep could lie as in Fig. 18. Very fast men do keep the head between the legs till the sheep is finished, but it is not good practice for learners or slow men, as invariably the sheep has only to kick once and the shearer loses control.

The illustrations show that in shearing a sheep it is turned completely around. On commencement it is facing up the board and on completion it is facing in the opposite direction. It must be clearly understood that the accompanying photographs show only the principal holds and blows, and it is recognised that individual shearers have variations of these holds and various short cuts are used which are not shown. The learner in due course will probably adopt several of the better-known ones in his own style.

### Fundamental Rules

The fundamental rules as laid down by first-class shearers are not many, but if they are not adhered to, one cannot hope to develop into the same category. Experience has shown that the shearer doing 250-300 sheep every day is one whose every stroke and movement is faultless. After seeing one of these men shearing alongside a man who is badly trained or perhaps just learning and doing 100 or so a day it is most obvious that the faster man is not working nearly so hard for his sheep as is the slower man. This is simply because the slower man has not as yet mastered the following cardinal rules of shearing:

(a) Learn to hold your sheep correctly; unless the correct positions are



16

Commencement of last side.



17

Last side.



18

Completion of sheep.