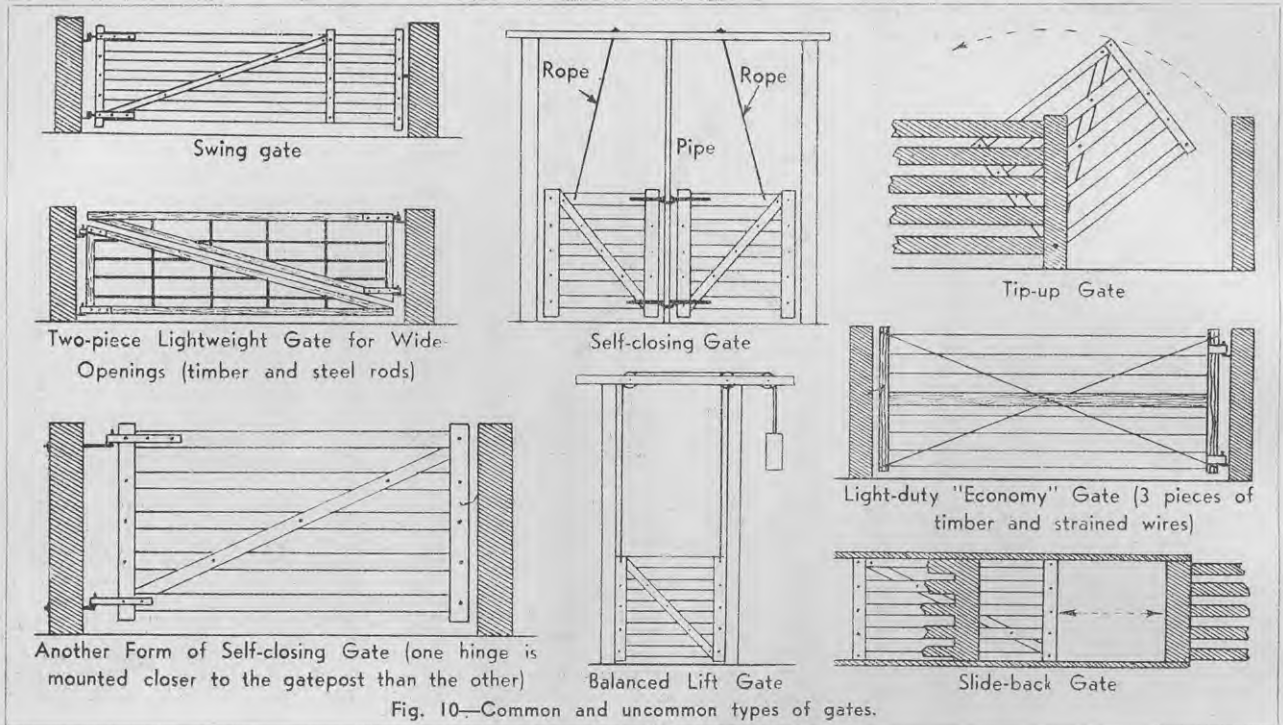Fig. 10—Common and uncommon types of gates.

3. As there is not much to get out of order, maintenance is low.

4. It can be quickly taken off its hinges and used as a hurdle where necessary.

5. Two of these gates can be swung across and tied together to connect two pens while cutting off a third and/or fourth pen.

6. They are easy to open on horseback.

7. They provide unlimited headroom.

8. They can be used as a "sweep" to push sheep into a crush, provided care is taken to see that no undue force is used.

Disadvantages

1. Considerable space is necessary for their swing.

2. They are difficult to open or shut when animals are pressing against them.

3. They require to be fastened when shut and if left swinging in the wind may be broken.

Lift-up Gate

The lift-up gate opens by sliding up between guides fixed to uprights. In some cases a snib is used to keep the gate up when lifted, but the best type is provided with a chain or rope running over a pulley and a counterweight which just balances the weight of the gate.

Advantages

1. The gate takes up very little space laterally.

2. If properly constructed, it is very easy to work and can be opened or shut more quickly than any other type. It is not affected greatly by wind.

3. Of the types mentioned it is least likely to get jammed by sheep pressing against it.

4. It only needs to be fastened shut if it is to be left for a time, but for ordinary work is simply pulled up or down as necessary.

Disadvantages

1. It is a difficult type to construct and requires reasonably good workmanship. It also gets out of order more easily if abused than the common swing gate.

2. It is the most expensive of the common types for first cost.

3. Due to the "gallows" over this type of gate head-room is limited.

4. As well as the disadvantages enumerated above it does not possess the advantages 2, 4, 5, and 8 given for the common swing gate.

Slide-back Gate

The slide-back gate slides back from the opening it covers. The fence at this point is usually double with about a 6in. space between. The gate runs on wheels on a steel rail above and in a channel guide below, or vice versa. In a cheaper type, however, the wheels are omitted, the fence is single, and the gate is exposed on one side.

Advantages

1. It takes up very little room for working—less than any of the types mentioned.

2. When well constructed it is quick and easy to work, but is not as good as the lift-up gate in this respect.

3. When the gate slides back into a "sheath" it cannot get jammed in the open position by sheep pressing against it.

4. It does not need to be fastened shut when being left for a short time only. It is not affected by wind.

Disadvantages

1. Its construction demands skill and good workmanship, if it is to work well. It gets out of order probably more easily than any of the other types due to small stones and dirt getting in the guides and also through sheep jumping and hitting the crossbar on which it runs.

2. It is probably the next most expensive type after the lift-up gate for first cost.

3. Unless it runs back into a sheath it can be jammed open by sheep on one side and can easily become jammed in the shut position.

4. It has very limited head-room due to the crossbar. Where this is not provided the gate will have to be made longer and stiffer and will not work as easily.

5. As well as the above it does not possess the advantages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 given for the common swing gate.

Tip-up Gate

The tip-up gate is not as common as the types already mentioned. It is usually hinged on a single bolt passing through one of the bottom corners and swings upward and backward alongside the fence.

Advantages

1. It is relatively cheap and easy to construct and will usually work fairly well even if roughly constructed.

2. It takes up less space than other gates except the slide-back type.

3. Head-room is unlimited.

4. It is easier to move the stock leaning against it than with the common swing gate or the slide-back gate.