

At this time, the shepherd cannot be over-kind to the inlambed ewes, provided his attentions are reasonably bestowed. Comfort they must have; luxuries, if such can be secured, they will well repay—such luxuries as an occasional run over the pasture on bright days, a chance to nibble in the rye field, with extra articles of food when these are within reach. These will give good tone to the system, encourage the secretion of milk, and in every way prepare the mother for the trials of maternity and the subsequent demands upon her while suckling a vigorous lamb. It is not enough to allow the breeding ewes to take their chances with the other members of the flock until yearning time, and then separate them for a change in treatment. If not kept to themselves all winter, they should be separated some weeks before the lambs are due, so that they may become thoroughly accustomed to their surroundings, and have the opportunity to reap such advantages as are promised by the change before the lamb appears. A well sheltered sleeping place, with ample dry bedding, is an essential that should not be overlooked. Demanded at all times by considerations of economy and mercy, and so readily within reach of every farmer, the failure to provide it at this time is an evidence of negligence and short-sightedness of which an intelligent man should feel ashamed.

An examination of the lambs affords the best insight into the merits of the flock-owner. Here his skill as a breeder, as well as his standing as a "handler," can be best determined. These are the key to success—the fullest results from either being unrealized when disassociated. Lavish expenditures for breeding animals will have been in vain if not supplemented by intelligent and liberal treatment. Such treatment, though always commendable, finds its best reward when bestowed upon well-bred animals. As there is no proper place in sheep husbandry for the niggardly or careless provider, it seems a wise provision of nature that discouragements and mortifications, pecuniary and mental, soon come to crowd him from the field to make room for better men. Those who wish to escape his fate have but to avoid his errors.

#### LOOK TO THE LAMBS.

The near approach of spring, as indicated, not alone by the calendar, but by the bright skies and high temperature that so generally prevail, will admonish the flock owner that the season for his early harvest is at hand. If he has not already provided such conveniences and necessities as will insure the comfort and enhance the health and thrift of the lambs, upon which so large a proportion of his profit depends, he should lose no more time in perfecting such arrangements. A lamb once on its feet, and well filled with its mother's milk, has escaped one-half the risks of lambhood, and is ready to grow and thrive; while its less-fortunate associates are overcoming the backsets resulting from being chilled and hungry by reason of the oversight or carelessness of their owners.