

and the source of his chief dependence for the necessities of life and comfort. Nor is this to be wondered at, for none so nearly combine within themselves the essentials of both food and raiment; none are restrained or transferred so readily; none subsisted with less care. With advancing civilization came efforts at improvement by selection of breeding animals, stimulating development by increased and diversified alimentation, and those other processes that experience and study brought to the attention of the interested breeder. Thus, when history came to take up such records as tradition had brought to it, man was found with admirable material for development into the types of sheep now most familiar. It is with these, and the means by which they can be made to contribute to his wealth and convenience, that the practical man of today seeks to familiarize himself by study and experiment—study of the history and habits of its ancestry so far as these may affect its present merits and future possibilities; experiments in feeding and line and cross-breeding, having for their object the improvement of existing varieties, and origination of newer ones.

The United States sustain an exceedingly interesting relation to the future of sheep-husbandry. With a territory practically unlimited; a climate reaching the parallel of countries hitherto deemed most highly favored; with a diversity of vegetation and topography to meet every caprice of fancy, every demand of necessity; and, above and beyond these, a people pre-eminent for enterprise and intelligence, who are just beginning to realize what their future can be made, there is safety in the prediction that the boldest prophecy of the present time will prove the tamest of history in the years to come. With but fourteen sheep to each section of domain—allowing more than forty-five acres to each animal—the capacity for producing wool and mutton finds as yet no adequate basis upon which its possibilities can be calculated.

To assist those who may be seeking information touching the foundation and peculiarities of the several breeds and their numerous varieties, and to encourage those laboring in the field, *THE GAZETTE* proposes to treat in subsequent issues of such as possess most interest for American breeders, present and prospective.

SHEEP, THEIR TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS.

The wide dissemination of an animal so susceptible to both natural and artificial influences as is the sheep, could but result in producing a variety of types, as widely divergent as the circumstances by which they are surrounded. When to these influences are added the arts of the breeder, the caprice of the amateur and the diversified care of the shepherd, the result is not only a number of breeds of widely differing characteristics, but varieties of these so numerous as to tax the memory of the expert, while fairly bewildering the less experienced inquirer. Each of these, thoroughly acclimated, and inheriting through numerous generations that have preceded it adaptation to the conditions by which it is surrounded, and fitting into the peculiar economy of a people familiar with its merits and the readiest means for their development, quite naturally has admirers who demand for it the place of first importance whenever comparative profitability is brought into discussion.

None of the domestic animals antedate the presence of the sheep as the property of man,