an ocean voyage has given an added charm.

In selecting a ram, in addition to a general knowledge of what a good sheep is, the purchaser should have two things constantly in mind: the characteristics of the flock upon which the ram is to be used, and the standard to which it is desired to breed. A really admirable ram is not necessarily the best for all purposes. While good at all points, he should be especially strong in those which it is desired to develop in the future flock; of unquestioned lineage, so that his individual merits, as well as the general characteristics of his breed, may be depended upon to reappear in his offspring; of such size, vigor and carriage as to promise the largest amount of service in combination with satisfactory results. A really first-class ram is usually worth all his owner will ask for him, if he can be bought at all. The purchaser needs to be quite certain that he is getting just the ram suited to the improvement of his flock before he finds fault with the price demanded for such animal.

An important factor in estimating the value of a ram is the amount of service that may reasonably be expected from him. The only place where this can be accurately determined is in the breeding fold. Experiences of breeders, if called upon for facts, will disclose a range of service, in single seasons, of from thirty to five hundred ewes. While very few rams, even under the most favorable conditions, could perform the service indicated by the larger amount, to be a profitable investment one should be able largely to exceed the smaller number when circumstances required. When any beyond a limited number of ewes are desired to be served, the judgment of the shepherd should be brought into requisition for securing the maximum results with the least possible drain upon the physical and procreative energies of the ram.

There are no mysteries connected with this duty. Common sense, careful supervision, liberal alimentation, about constitute the round of essentials. Given these, the limit of a ram’s ability, which should always be kept with a wide margin this side the danger line, can best be estimated, and only accurately determined while the service is being performed. When properly fed, and otherwise cared for, some Merino rams will serve five to eight ewes per day through the entire coupling season. This, of course, implies that the ewes are presented to him only when in condition to accept service, and that they are removed as soon as served. This course obviates the worry and unnecessary labor that prove so great a tax upon the energies of the ram when permitted to remain with or in sight of the ewe flock. From the heavier bodied breeds less service can be secured than is safely exacted from the Merino—though the limit is largely dependent upon such circumstances as those above enumerated, and is to be determined only in presence of those circumstances.

The desire the prudent breeder has in approximating the amount of service a ram is capable of performing, arises from a determination to avoid too near an approach to such limit rather than to have his animal...