SHEEP, THEIR TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS.

No. II.

Sheep are commonly classified according to the characteristics of fleece. Thus results the terms Fine Wool, Long Wool, Middle Wool, so familiar in breeding and exhibition circles. Each of these grand divisions are subdivided into varieties more commonly designated by their peculiar habitat, the name of the breeder most intimately identified with their development, etc. The typical animals of these divisions are so unlike in size and general appearance as to leave upon the mind of the novice an impression that they belong to an entirely different race; while between certain of their numerous subdivisions the resemblance is so striking as to require the critical eye of the expert for determining their proper designation.

Variations in size and form and covering that distinguish the several breeds of sheep have resulted from the widely differing natural and artificial surroundings, breeding, treatment, to which their ancestry for a series of years have been subjected—indisputably emphasizing the facility with which this indispensable animal adapts itself to every condition in which it may be placed—indicating it as a most desirable adjunct of husbandry, in all its gradations, from the lowest to the most advanced stage.

Much of the confusion that overtaxes the inquirer in his study of the breeds of sheep, and the numerous varieties of each, could be obviated by the employment of a more discriminating nomenclature. The necessity for properly designative and generally accepted terms is no where more apparent than in the literature and language relating to this industry. Localisms and misnomers are inadvertently adopted by writers and speakers, until the student is entangled in a labyrinth of terms from which he can extricate himself only by careful study and observation. Dr. Randall, to whom indebtedness is acknowledged for invaluable contributions to the literature and knowledge relating to sheep husbandry, recognizing the embarrassment that results from the thoughtless use of terms by writers and speakers, suggested and observed the following, which, though imperfect, if gen-