

THE VALLEY & EAST COAST VOICE

Volume 4 No. 8, Box 100, St. Marys. Friday 27 August, 1971. Price 5 cents.

EDITORIAL

EDUCATION PART II - THE MYTH OF EQUALITY

Probably the most well worn phrase in our education system to-day is the one that proclaims "equal opportunities for all children". Yet everywhere we are continually faced with the proof that this equality does not exist.

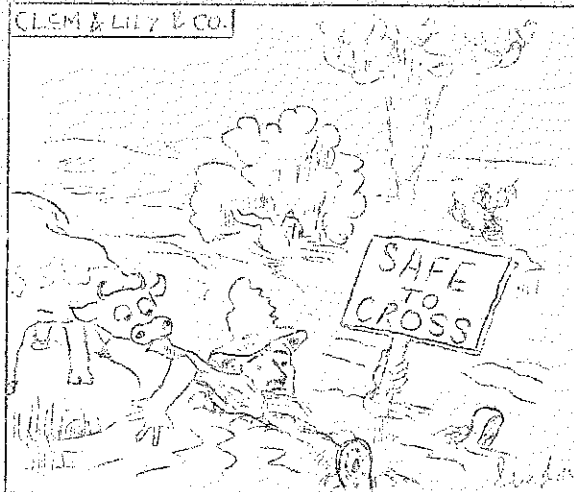
In Tom Roper's book, "The Myth of Equality" the author devotes several chapters to the inequalities that plague our education system. He gives us examples of appalling conditions in many state and poorer private schools. "As for equality", he says "In fact the reverse to the highest degree often applies". He goes on to quote figures to prove this point - 39 schools within a $3\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius of the G.P.O. in Melbourne which, from a recent teachers federation report, require more than \$50,000,000 expenditure to raise them to an acceptable standard.

These schools literally spill-over - one which caters for 400 children is situated on 0.7 acres of land. Others use old factories for make-shift class rooms - one school uses every corridor in the school as a school room. Another has a class of 36 being taught in a room which was built as a cloak-room.

Mr. Roper along with Professor Goldman, La Trobe University and many other authorities estimate that there are 500,000 Australian schoolchildren being taught under sub-standard conditions. Most of these children live in the large capital cities of Australia but a fair percentage also live in country and provincial areas. In those latter areas it is not so much the overcrowding but the availability of a full variety of subjects that is the handicap.

In Tasmania the rot has set in. Overcrowding is already beginning to show. In the northern half of the island only one class room is to be built in 1971-72 period. With pupil intake increasing each year it doesn't take much imagination to visualize the overcrowding that will take place and the lowering of educational standards that

cont.



"A SLIGHT MISJUDGEMENT, LILY!"

Editorial cont.

will accompany it.

There are many reasons why this situation has arisen and the main one is simply - money. But the way available money is spent is also a major contributing factor and Federal policies seem bent on fostering the growing division between the "haves" and the "have nots"; by continuing financial assistance regardless of need.

The fact that a well-off private school in Sydney's affluent North Shore can get the same amount of grant money (and use it to build a swimming pool if they like) as a destitute parochial private school in Redfern with no library and one teacher to 50 pupils, is gross injustice and an affront to any semblance of equality. It is also an injustice that the dollar for dollar subsidy grants paid through parents

cont. page 2

ST MARYS BAKERY



PROCERA BREAD · PIES · PASTIES
CAKES · SMALLGOODS
WHOLESALE & RETAIL

Editorial cont.

and friends associations do not take into account the differences between the ability of parents in a wealthy area to raise funds and compare with parents in a poorer area. (In the last five years a state primary school in Melbourne's well-to-do North Balwyn raised \$50,000 and got \$20,000 in government subsidies and a primary school in Collingwood in a similar time only managed to raise \$2,000 and received \$300 from the government. There was no suggestion of less effort on the part of the Collingwood parents - the money just was not there.)

If the Commonwealth and State Governments are to give special grants, surely these must be made on the basis of need - the ones who need the most must get the most.

Until this is done, the equality in our education will remain a myth.

TOUCHE!

A reader, whom we admit was slightly under the weather at the time, has come up with a novel theory for flying saucer visitations to this planet. 'Its a form of protest', he says. 'This yearly Miss Universe bit has probably got on their wick. I mean, after all, it is a bit of an imposition calling a two legged, large bosomed, dark eyed earth girl MISS UNIVERSE, when to an Alfa Centaurian or a Martian a ten legged square bosomed, multi-eyed, hairless Alfa-maid may be the ideal beauty.'

It has been pointed out by a learned critic, that in last week's editorial there were at least two rather bad spelling mistakes. One, was merely a typographical error - the other: well the editorial writer takes full responsibility for that one: but hastens to add that the fact he is a poor speller has nothing to do with his state-school educational background.

READERS PLEASE NOTE!!...owing to a special article by the District Veterinary officer - this week's Star-probe has been deleted. This column will be continued the following issue.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I hereby declare that I do NOT care who scandalises my name and NO LEGAL action will be taken against persons doing so

John C. Bullock Jnr. St Marys

C L A S S I F I E D S

FOR SALE...Double purchase lifting jack. Imported grinding stone. Five sets pipe dies, ($\frac{1}{4}$ " X 1"), ($\frac{3}{4}$ " X $1\frac{1}{4}$ ") ($\frac{1}{2}$ " X 2") ($1\frac{1}{2}$ " X 3"), ($1\frac{1}{2}$ " X 3"). Steel wedges, 6" X 12". 10lb hammers. Platform scales. Colonial oven. Hand saws. Picks, shovels, Broad axe. Wire roof brushes. Hand post drill & drills. Fibre cutters. Crow bars. Sanipans. 2 sets pipe cutters. Pipe vices. Blacksmiths vice. Gloss paint, \$4 a gallon 5" & 6" nails, 12¢/lb. Sundry items. Phone St Marys 61.

TO LET...SCAMANDER, small furnished shack, \$5 weekly, suit pensioner. Phone Scamander 64.

FOR SALE...Ladies bike, as new. Convair wood heater. Saw bench, (iron frame). Laminex table and 6 chairs. Apply R.J. Hinds. St Marys.

ALL DRESSMAKING expertly carried out. Prompt service, satisfaction guaranteed. GLAMOUR GOWNS, UPSTAIRS, SHAW'S ARCADE, LAUNCESTON. Open Saturday morning. Phone 25170

KING'S BUS SERVICE, service St Marys, St Helens, Winnaleah, Bicheno and Swansea. Passengers phone Winnaleah.

REDLINE BUS SERVICE, St Marys. They distribute this paper quickly and efficiently. Why not let them work for you?

CLASSIFIEDS ADS cost 50¢ for approx 25 words. It would be appreciated if advertisers accompanied application forms with a 50¢ fee.

KNIT THE FAST MODERN WAY with a Knitting machine from SEWKNIT PTY. LTD., 72 George Street, Launceston. Phone 313266.

AUTOMATIC SEWING MACHINES FROM as low as \$59. Terms? Of course. Sewknit Pty Ltd., 72 George Street, Launceston. Phone 313266.

WANTED...Ladies to sell VANDA BEAUTY COUNSELLOR PRODUCTS in ST MARYS and ST HELENS districts. Good part time earnings assured.....INTERESTED??? Ring Avoca 842168 evenings.

ANY PERSON INTERESTED in purchasing or renting the LARGE BLOCK OF GROUND adjacent to the Methodist Church please contact R. Bye at the Savings Bank.

WANTED TO SELL....SANYO "Porta-graph" record player. Excellent condition. \$20. Ring St Marys 5.

Miss Piffle

COMING EVENTS

MRS GERALD AULICH is now out of hospital and spending a few days with her sister Mrs D Semmens before returning home in the weekend.

MRS GWEN MCGEE is home again after a short stay in the Launceston General Hospital.

LYNETTE WILLIAMS of Victoria and her children Rebecca and Christine are staying with Lynette's parents, Mr and Mrs H Aulich for a few weeks.

MRS EILEEN SEMMENS of St Helens celebrated her 72nd birthday on August 24th. Mrs Semmens is known as one of St Helen's Football Clubs most ardent supporters and for many years has worked hard in helping to raise money for the club. Perhaps the nicest present she could receive during the week would be a win for St Helens in the Preliminary Final at Fingal next Saturday.

MISS CAROL SPENCER of Sydney has joined the staff at the Hospital and is enjoying seeing the East Coast scenery.

BRENDA AND DOUGLAS GERRIE of Canberra and Adelaide are enjoying a short holiday with their parents Mr and Mrs H.R. Gerrie, St Marys.

MR. GEOFF COX spent the weekend in Geelong visiting relatives.

Friends of MARLENE PARKER of Mangana are pleased to see her progressing satisfactorily after her recent operation.

MARIE & LORRAINE SWEENEY have returned to Launceston after visiting their parents, Mr & Mrs Syd Sweeney.

TIMOTHY & AMANDA CAUSBY of West Heidelberg, Vic are spending the first week of their school vacation with their grandparents, Mr & Mrs Upton at the P.O. They will then journey to Avoca to spend a few days with their grandparents Mr & Mrs E. Causby.

ST MARYS FOOTBALL CLUB LADIES COMMITTEE cordially invite all players and their wives to the Annual Dinner in the Community Hall Saturday September 18th at 6.30pm E.S.V.S. September 11th to Mrs Fay Freeman (Secretary)

STREET STALL SCAMANDER SATURDAY 4th September Home made cakes - Preserves Fresh Vegetables - Flowers And hosts of other good things PROCEEDS IN AID OF SCAMANDER PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

FARMERS DISCUSSION GROUP next month will deal with Springtime seasonal diseases in Sheep and Cattle. Guest speaker Mr. T. McManus (District Veterinary Officer) Wednesday, September 8th at St. Marys, Institute.

WOOL WOOL WOOL WOOL WOOL WOOL Anyone with extra or spare knitting wool, please contact Mrs. Geoff Dean at St Marys 17 or Mrs. Ken Williams, St Marys 122 or the St Marys District School. This wool is to be knitted up for the School Fair. All donations no matter how small will be much appreciated.

SCHOOL FILM FESTIVAL. Visual Aids Room, St Marys High School. September 9th. "Eagle Rock", (in Eastman Colour) "Rescue Squad" Tickets and bookings, Phone St Marys 17. 30 cents for adults & children. Children under school age FREE.

C.W. & M.A. ROYLE
St Marys.
JUST OPENED RANGE OF SPRING FROCKS
CARDIGANS AND PULLOVERS.
SEE our BARGAIN TABLE of SHIRTS
ALL
HALF PRICE
We open every lunch hour.

"BERGER PAINTS KEEP ON KEEPING ON"
YOUR LOCAL BERGER PAINT DEALER INVITES YOU
TO COME IN AND SELECT YOUR PAINT FROM
THE BERGER RANGE OF OVER 70 LINES AND
MORE THAN 500 COLOURS
THE BEST PAINT AT THE LOWEST PRICES.....
TRADE AND BULK USER ENQUIRIES WELCOME..

VALLEY TRADING CO.

FROM THE PULPIT.

"Be ready in the morning" Exodus 34:2
It was going to be a great day for Moses. Indeed, when you come to think of it, every day, however seemingly humdrum and insignificant, is a great day for each of us. When God wakes you first thing, and offers you His gift of a new day, who knows what it may hold in store?— what opportunities, what emergencies, what problems, what responsibilities, and what experiences? Why, looked at that way, every new day is an unknown adventure. And how shall we use it to the fullest and best?

"Be ready in the morning". What early tryst with the Master will prove the key, and set the tone of the whole day. There will lie the secret of putting the most into it, and of getting the most out of it. Your circumstances may prevent your spending a long time, first thing, with God. Well, it is not the length that counts, but the depth. If it is real, even five minutes, a word from God, a word with God, will get us "ready in the morning" to face whatever the new day may bring.

BREAK O'DAY CAMERA CLUB.

The August meeting was held at the home of Miss D. Hulton (not Mrs! as stated by the Examiner!). Members were shown some of the best slides from an International exhibition, and these afforded interesting discussion. Miss Jean Lohrey showed some of her slides taken on her recent visit to Darwin and the Centre. Members then joined in discussion and helpful criticism of slides brought along by other members. The September competition will be - "Night Illumination". All new members and visitors welcome any time.

DOUG STINGLE

A.M.P. REPRESENTATIVE

FOR SOUND ADVICE ON:

- . FAMILY SECURITY
- . RETIREMENT
- . PROBATE
- . INVESTMENT
- . FIRE AND ACCIDENT

Phone L'ton 311907 or 312877

SCAMANDER GARDEN CLUB.

The Scamander Garden Club held the August meeting at Mrs. A. White's home. The members were pleased to welcome Mrs. Pendrigh of St. Helens as guest speaker. Mrs. Pendrigh gave a talk on the "Care of Indoor Plants" and she very kindly donated a prize as an encouragement award to be presented at the end of the year. Mrs. Pendrigh judged the Competition which was for a Flat Green Arrangement. The winner was Mrs. Nyall, second was Mrs. Hallinson and Mrs. Peterson was third. A trade table and raffle added \$7.50 to Club Funds.

ST. MARYS GARDEN CLUB

The annual meeting was held in the St. Marys Institute and was very well attended, thirty two people being present, which included visitors from Fingal.

Mrs Fiddler's demonstration was very much enjoyed by all.

First prize for the greeting card competition went to Mrs.V. Oliver, Mrs Llewellyn second and Mrs. C. Royle third.

The open class (using any material) was won by Mrs. H. Napier first, Mrs C. Royle second and Mrs Mitchell third. The cooking was won by Mrs. Mitchell first, Mrs. Aulich second and Mrs. Cruse third.

Floral art, Mrs. C. Royle first, Mrs. Llewellyn second and Mrs. V. Oliver third.

Intermediate, Mrs. N. Toombs first, Mrs. J. Lehner, Mrs. K. Lohrey third.

Novice floral art, Miss Beverley Mitchell.

Best potted bulb, Mrs. Jean Lehner, Mrs. C. Royle second, Mrs. Llewellyn third.

Best parsnip, Mrs. Llewellyn first, second and third.

Any other vegetable, Mrs Cruse, first, Mrs. G. Schier second.

Best eggs and Bacon, First, Mrs. Royle, Second, Mrs Llewellyn, third Mrs. M. Lohrey.

Any other bloom, Mrs. Royle first and second. Mrs M. Aulich third.

Competitions for next month are Best Hyacinth and best onion. Best Sponge cake filled with raspberry jam and dusted with icing sugar. Best vase made from shells.

ST. MARYS BUTCHERY

Toby Spilsbury

Our Meat is Always Good.

Just Yarnin'

In St Marys Hospital, Mr Lew Dunn aged 88 years cheers the patients and the staff with tunes on his piano accordian. Lew was taught to play by ear by his mother and has always enjoyed music, playing for his friends and for dances.

"I remember running dancing assemblies in the Pyengana district and as I taught the young ladies and the young men to dance I would play my accordian and dance along with them.

These assemblies were a great success - we held some at North George and some at South George and we finished with a big dance at the Hall near Mrs Terry's Hotel in Pyengana.

"I was born at Upper Seamander and I went to school there until I was 14 years of age. There was always trouble to get school teachers to come to these small schools and we had a lot of changes. In those days there were about 50 children at the school.

"Names I can remember are Miss Iles who was helped by my sister Dora, Mr Holmes and then Mr St John Bolby who also taught at Germantown. We cut a track from Upper Seamander to Germantown for him and he walked back and forth in spite of a stiff leg. He was a wonderful cabinet maker and we boys would like to watch him at work.

"My best teacher was Mr Sydney Vos, he taught me such a lot and I enjoyed school so much I wished I could stay. However my father was ill and I had to leave and help on the farm.

"I have done some mining - I can remember working at the Golden Gate at the 300ft level, but most of my life I have worked on farms and I have seen many changes over the years.

L.B.S.

WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR TAX CHEQUE
BRING IT ALONG AND LET US HELP
YOU MAKE IT GROW.
YOU GET THE HIGHEST SAVINGS BANK
INTEREST IN AUSTRALIA.
THE LAUNCESTON BANK FOR SAVINGS
THE 5% BANK

5%

MEETING DIARY

27th August to
10th September

ST MARYS

- Sept. 1st W.A.O.M. 2.30pm Methodist Hall - All Ladies Welcome
- " 5th Cullenswood Council after Evensong, Holy Trinity
- " 6th Red Cross Bi-Monthly Meetg. 7.45pm, Institute, All Welcome
- " 6th Senior Citizens Welfare Com. 7.30pm Matron's Office
- " 8th T.F.F. Opn, Institute

CORNWALL

- Sept. 7th Mother's Union 10.30am in the Vestry

FINGAL

- Sept. 1st St Peter's Women's Guild 7.30pm Home of Miss Lora Williams

CHURCH NOTICES

29th August CHURCH OF ENGLAND

- 8am St Peter's - E.C.
- 10am Church of the Good Shepherd - E.C.
- 11.05am Holy Trinity - E.C.
- 2.30pm St Paul's - Family Service
- 7pm St Thomas - E.C.

5th September CHURCH OF ENGLAND

- 8am St Thomas - E.C.
- 9.45am St Peter's Family Service
- 11am Christ's Church E.C.
- 2.30pm The Church of the Ascension Family Service & Holy Baptism
- 7pm Holy Trinity Evensong

29th August CATHOLIC

- 8.30am St Mary of the Assumption
- 9.45am Avoca
- 10.30am St Joseph's
- 6.30pm St Helens

5th September CATHOLIC

- 8.30am St Mary of the Assumption
- 9.45am Avoca
- 10.30am Our Lady of the Scared Heart
- 6.30pm St Helens

29th August METHODIST

- 11am St Marys - Mr D Hall
- 7.30pm St Helens - Mrs S Keddie

5th September METHODIST

- 11am St Marys - Mrs S Keddie
- 7.30pm St Helens - Mr R Bye

ST MARYS' CAFE

FOR DELICIOUS FOOD

TRY OUR SPECIALITY

ABERDEEN HADDOCK

Phone St Marys 107.

SPORT

FOOTY NOTES

by 'One Eye'

FINGAL SCORE NARROW WIN

Fingal stages a great comeback in the last quarter to defeat St. Marys by one point in the second semi-final last Saturday. At three quarter time the Tigers appeared to have a match winning lead of 20 points, but the Blues' scored a couple of quick goals and went on to pull the game out of the fire.

For Fingal, Singline was very damaging in the forward line and kicked 4 goals. Smith also played a great game and all day appeared to turn up at the right time. Other good players were G. Parker, Barnes and V. Bulzberger. For St. Marys, Hayes played well all day, as did Bushing, Barnes, Wardlaw and Kent Mitchell.

In the first semi-final last week, St. Helens scored a narrow win of four points over Avoca. For St. Helens Freeman, D. Chapple, Berwick and Riley were on top all day. Avoca's best were Anderson, Youd, P. Williams and Pyke.

Next Saturday St. Marys and St. Helens will meet at Fingal and although the conditions will be wet and muddy, it should be a good game.

Berwick has really hit his hobbles for St. Helens and will cause the Tiger backmen plenty of worry. Freeman and Chapple are also in good form and will extend Bye and the other St. Marys' forwards.

Barnes is playing well in the centre for St. Marys and may have the edge on Riley although Riley usually plays well in finals. St. Marys may have the advantage in the following division with Hayes, McCarter in good form. Around the flanks, both teams appear even. My selection is for St. Marys, who are injury free at last and should win after a hard final.

The following week is the grand final and although Fingal have won their place, they have injury problems at the moment and may not play their strongest side. Playing against St. Marys last week, they were a little disappointing and I feel if the winner of this weeks game

have no injury problems, it will be a good final. At this stage, Fingal must be favourites for the flag but will get plenty of opposition from St. Marys or St. Helens.

In the seconds this week, Rossarden will meet Fingal for the right to meet St. Marys in the grand final. I will go for a Rossarden win and only expect them to be beaten by St. Marys in the final.

In the thirds St. Marys will meet Rossarden and this should also be a great game, with St. Marys winning narrowly.

However, St. Helens should win the grand final, despite St. Marys having Wayne Freeman back from the Tasmanian team.

ST. MARYS GOLF NOTES

(Associates)

Bisque Bogey, Mrs. L. Williams, 1 up

Mrs. L. Williams, square

Mrs. M. Macleay, 1 down

Miss C. White, 3 down

Housego Oliver Trophy Final Round

Winner, Miss C. White, 28: 65

Mrs. L. Williams, 26: 69

Final Round T.L.G.V. Silver Spoon (final)

Miss C. White, 28: 65

Mrs. L. Williams, 29: 70

Miss White will play at Riverside on October 13th with other winners of Northern Tasmania. We wish her luck.

Members.

Stableford:	Mr. A. Jackson	34
	Mr. G. Gill	33
	Mr. T. Bean	32

NO DIGGING

NO BOILING

With all-steel Cyclone

drive - in fencing!

FOR ALL YOUR FENCING REQUIREMENTS

CONSULT THE EXPERTS.



Co-operative Society.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT TASMANIA.



B. & J. SPILSBURY

Service Station & Cartage Constructor

24 Hr. Towing & Breakdown Service.

Agent For

CHAIN SAWS

VICTOR BOMBS

Phone

St Marys

113

DON'T BE CAUGHT OUT BY A FLUKE!

(SEASONAL FARMING NOTES)

By T.J. Mcmanus, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.
District Veterinary Officer.

The vagaries of our Tasmanian climate certainly cause problems. A few years ago there was insufficient rain; last summer there was too much. In fact it was the wettest since 1956. As a result, in swamps and water courses, tiny snails found conditions ideal for a population explosion. One of these species, *Limnaea*, acts as an intermediate host in the life cycle of the liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*).

It is nearly ten years since fluke has been a problem in sheep, except in isolated areas. Many farmers thought they had seen the last of this parasite but it was merely the scarcity of snails that caused the apparent disappearance of liver flukes. There were always enough snails however to maintain the parasite's life cycle but the three diseases, acute and chronic fluke disease and black disease, rarely caused trouble. Now after the last wet summer more than enough snails are available to provide an intermediate host for many of the 20,000 eggs per day laid by each adult liver fluke.

LIFE CYCLE

One carrier sheep harbouring 25 adult fluke can contaminate a pasture at the rate of half a million eggs per day. When snails are abundant a rapid build-up of infective larvae can occur and this is what happened last autumn. Other fluke-carrying animals such as cattle, rabbits and kangaroo also contribute their share of eggs. At temperatures of 60°F. a fluke egg will hatch into a tiny first stage larva or miracidium in about two weeks. These then burrow into the *Limnaea* snails where each larva can multiply many times more. From four to eight weeks later small cercariae emerge and attach themselves in a protective cyst to blades of grass while waiting to be eaten. Incidentally man can become infected too so don't indulge in idle grass-stalk chewing especially around swamps or ponds.

The tiny cercariae are swallowed by the thousands as sheep graze along the water courses. These small larvae abandon their cysts in the host's bowel, burrow through to the liver causing great damage in the process. Young sheep with no previous fluke contact will die from "acute fluke disease" in less than a week if sufficient cercariae are swallowed in a short time.

A slower intake or a greater degree of resistance enables the sheep to survive the 12 weeks required for the larva to mature in the animal's bile ducts, where each gradually grows to an adult with an egg laying capacity of 20,000 per day. Liver fluke have both sexes mixed up in the same inside so they simply fertilise themselves.

The reaction of the sheep to this abuse of its internal arrangements is to develop "chronic fluke disease" with anaemia, jaundice (yellow eyes), bottle jaw, loss of weight, weakness and ultimately, without treatment, death. Chronic fluke disease is mostly seen in winter.

NOT ONLY FLUKE

Although deaths in hoggets from acute fluke disease can at times be numerous, often the biggest killer in a fluke epidemic is "black disease" - infectious necrotic hepatitis.

The burrowing flukes stimulate the multiplication of clostridial bacteria often present in the liver, causing sudden death. This can happen to unvaccinated sheep of any age and hundreds may die in a week. Inoculation against black disease is very effective, but since it takes 2 weeks to establish an immunity don't wait until the disease begins before vaccinating.

A comprehensive article on farm vaccine use was written for the recent May issue of the Tasmania Journal of Agriculture. In it were details of method, timing and costs. If you did not receive a copy, reprints are available free from any Department of Agriculture office.

TREATMENT

Recently developed anthelmintics (worm remedies) have eliminated the need to risk poisoning sheep with old-fashioned carbon tetrachloride drenches.

Four new compounds are available in Tasmania. These are Fascol, Ranide, Tremerad and Zanil. The three most common dose schedules are based on sheep of 50-75 lbs. live weight, 75-100 lbs. and over 100 lbs. live weight.

The costs of the newer more efficient fluke drenches for the different live weights of sheep vary between 3.0 and 3.6 cents per dose for 50-75 lbs. live weight sheep, between 4.0 and 4.9 cents for sheep up to 100 lbs. live weight and between 4.0 and 5.9 cents for sheep over 100 lbs. weight.

Carbon tetrachloride is twenty times cheaper but is often more toxic. Unlike the newer drenches which can kill developing fluke only six weeks after they are picked up, carbon tetrachloride has little or no effect against immature fluke and must therefore be used more often. However if you decide to use carbon tetrachloride don't drench sheep on lush feed. Remember too that any fluke drench, but particularly carbon tetrachloride, is much more likely to kill sheep that are already heavily infested with fluke.

"WOE, WOE AND THRICE WOE!"

There is a certain risk of widespread outbreaks of acute and chronic fluke infestation this coming spring. Weather conditions last summer and autumn have made this inevitable. At the moment the fluke problems experienced in late autumn have largely abated but this is only because snail activity is reduced during cold weather. Sheep are unlikely to become more infested now than they were in mid June. Even so when the *Limnaea* snails re-emerge in September they will meet a horde of freshly hatched fluke miracidia and 4-8 weeks later these will appear in increased numbers as cercariae on grass waiting to be swallowed and hoping for three square meals a day of raw lambs fry.

The severity of spring infestation in sheep, particularly growing lambs, will depend on the degree of pasture contamination with fluke eggs in the latter part of the winter just before the snails re-appear.

WHAT TO DO

Step 1: Drench all sheep, except this year's lambs, before the end of August, with an efficient fluke drench. Why? Because by mid August all the fluke larvae picked up in the autumn will have reached a size when they will be highly susceptible to modern fluke preparations. Another reason for the August treatment is to prevent the hatching of a large batch of miracidia coinciding with the re-appearance of masses of snails. Since fluke eggs take about two weeks or longer at that time of the year to hatch, the adult fluke in the sheep must be killed at least this length of time before snail hibernation ends about mid September. Just to complicate matters further it has been discovered that the killed fluke leave many viable eggs in the sheep's gall bladder which are excreted for up to 2 weeks afterwards. For this reason it is best to try and keep the freshly drenched sheep away from swampy paddocks for a fortnight after treatment.

Step 2: If possible, during the first week in October move susceptible sheep, especially ewes and lambs, to higher ground away from swampy areas. Why? While the August drench will remove the bulk of flukes picked up in the autumn it will not do anything about the eggs already on the pasture. Many of these, laid in the autumn will have survived the winter in a dormant stage awaiting warmer weather. It is logical therefore to move sheep before the newly active snails do their part of the "dirty work" and complete the life cycle of these eggs when they hatch. This would result in sufficient cercariae being produced to start another fluke build-up. If we have another wet summer, a second generation of thousands of fluke larvae will invade sheep's livers next March and April.

Step 3: Assuming black disease to be eliminated by vaccination, deaths of young sheep from acute fluke disease are the major concern, and it is very hard to stop these once they start. In addition to treatment, young sheep must be managed to reduce the risk of massive cercariae intake. Removal to high ground has already been mentioned but this is not always possible. An alternative is to change the sheep's paddock every 9 weeks, drenching at the same time with a modern compound, not carbon tetrachloride.

Remember too that abnormal climatic conditions which favour the build-up of fluke also favour a high infestation of bowel worms. Don't assume one particular parasite to be the cause of illness or death and don't neglect control of bowel worms.

Even the best fluke compounds are toxic to a degree and can't help but affect young sheep whose livers are already macerated by thousands of chomping larvae. The presence of bowel worms increases this risk by lowering the sheep's resistance further. Prevention by good management and planning is the key.

Registered at the G.P.O. Hobart for transmission through the post as a periodical