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ACTION

STOPS

RAIN

AND

WIND

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DON'T PUT UP WITH DRAUGHTY DOORS

SUITS YOUR CAR

WHEREVER YOU

CALTEX PETROL



Shepherd's Calendar

Shivering Sheep

∧ N early discovery of every journalist is the reader with own, and a better filing system. Because it is dangerous to forget him we usually carry him in the back of our minds while we are working and think of him frequently afterwards. But I completely forgot him

when I wrote my recent note about winter shearing, and forgot myself too. Fortunately for the cause of science he did not forget me. He waylaid and lassoced me, and did it all so unexpectedly that I was a prisoner before I knew what had happened. Until I read Mr Story's letter in The Listener of July 5, and found and reread his article in the Journal of Agriculture last October, with my own brief comment on it in The Listener a few days later. I had no recollection that I had trodden this ground before. Now all I can do is laugh at the size of the footmarks, which are unmistakably mine. I can't even fall back on an ex pede Herculem argument. If I do someone is sure to shout ex pede asinum. I will return to the shivering sheep.

Though I can't repeat that wintershorn sheep probably give less wool in twelve months than sheep shorn in summer, and can't suggest so confidently that winter shearing will soon be dropped -- "soon" would now be dangerous—I can ask the experts to tell us more clearly why sheep alone of all domestic animals pay no price for misery. Mr Story's team gave a clear, interesting, and what I find at present a convincing explanation of the milling advantage of shearing in August. I hope they will now give us the physiological advantage: tell us why a ewe produces as much milk when she is half dead with

cold as when she is comfortable and warm. If I understand the milling argument August shearing is recommended because hunger, pregnancy, and cold combine to make a break or thin place in the fibre about that time, and it is therefore better to cut the wool at that point than wait till the weak place has moved on. Are we to be asked to believe that what is bad for the wool is not bad for the milk or the meat?

HOW long does it take human beings to make a home? Not less, I think,

"You rang, m'lady?"

by "SUNDOWNER"

a longer memory than his than a quarter of a century. If we are lucky enough to live as long as that under the same roof and on the same piece of ground we are likely to feel then that we belong to them and they to us. But I have not often seen it happen sooner. Because this is a young country, not yet settled down, most of us spend the first half of our lives on the move, and then can't

JULY 12 make up our minds where home is. For that reason home-making can be a confusing, and often a depressing, experience for many years. It may even be, and certainly often seems to be, a disadvantage to be so strongly attached to one place that all other places fail to bring us peace. Revolutionaries and reformers play periodically with the idea of socialising our emotions as well as our possessions and our ways of making a livelihood, and although it always comes in the end to the nonsense it has always been, I never see a child leaving home for the first day at school without feeling de-pressed. Nor do I often see men and women leaving their places of employment at the other end of their lives without wondering how successful they will be in taking root again somewhere else. We decide perhaps to move into the sun and think that all of us will move. But it may happen that the sun does not warm us when we arrive; that the heat

Animals, because they have short memories and no power of reflection, adapt themselves to change (continued on next page)

and glow remain in the place we have

left and can't be carried with us; that our heads and our hearts stay in dif-

ferent places.

