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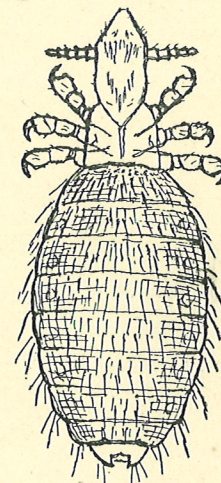
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A NEW LOUSE (*HÆMATOPINUS OVILLUS*,
NEUM.) FROM THE SHEEP.

By WILLIAM EVANS, F.R.S.E.

IN the spring of last year (1906), when collecting material for a list of the parasitic Hemiptera of this district, I obtained, through the kindness of Mr. W. F. Little, a number of small brownish Anoplura taken from the face of a sheep of the "Black-faced" breed at Crosswood, Pentland Hills, Midlothian. The date on which they were taken was the 30th of April, and I was informed that this louse is common in spring on the faces—especially about the cheeks—of sheep in that part of the Pentlands.

That these lice belonged to the well-known genus *Hæmatopinus* was evident at a glance, but I could not make them fit with any of the described species, though it was clear they were closely related to *H. stenopsis*, Burm., the louse of the goat. Not being able to identify them, I sent several examples to Professor L.-G. Neumann of the Veterinary College, Toulouse, for his opinion. He replied that they undoubtedly belonged to a new species, and that by an interesting coincidence he had only a few weeks before received from New Zealand a



♀ x 22

specimen of the same parasite found there on the face of a sheep belonging to the "Border-Leicester" breed, and had written for further specimens to study before describing the

insect. These he has since received, and in May of the present year I had a few more from Black-faced Sheep on the western Pentlands.

Professor Neumann has now described this new species of Anoplura, to which he has given the name of *Hæmatopinus ovillus*, in the *Revue Vétérinaire* for August 1907, pp. 520-524, where full particulars will be found. It is not a little remarkable that a parasite of so well known a domestic animal as the sheep should have remained unknown to science till now. No species of *Hæmatopinus* has hitherto been recorded as occurring on the sheep. Doubtless *H. ovillus* has reached New Zealand from this country by importation on its host. The length of my specimens, one of which is figured on p. 225, varies from 2 to $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.