

A SHEEP-GOAT HYBRID

WHAT seems to be a hybrid between a sheep and a goat was produced this spring on the

¹SCIENCE, n. s., XXV., 625, 1907.

farm of Mr. E. Arnaud, Monett, Mo. Mr. Arnaud maintains a herd of sheep and with them keeps two goats, a male and a female. There is only one female goat on the place, and she brought a kid three weeks after the animal in question was born. The hybrid is a twin to a lamb that is not a hybrid. The maternity of the supposed hybrid is not absolutely certain. Mr. Arnaud found the lambs when they were perhaps an hour old. No other sheep or goats were near, though there were others within the same enclosure. The ewe evidently regarded both the animals as her progeny. The twins are inseparable, one being an ordinary lamb, the other in most respects a goat. The tail is intermediate in length between that of a sheep and a goat, and the ears closely resemble those of a sheep. The coat is apparently that of a goat. The male goat on the farm is of mixed breeding and is white with a few reddish hairs showing on the upper part of the neck. The supposed hybrid has most of the hairs of the body of this reddish color. Mixed with them are much shorter hairs which appear like white wool. They have not yet been submitted to examination to ascertain their real nature.

While the evidence is not absolutely conclusive, there is strong reason for believing this individual to be a hybrid. Mr. Arnaud fully appreciates the importance of the freak, and will preserve it for future study and experiment. The writer would greatly appreciate information concerning other hybrids of this character.

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