g for ewes 'right off the ling'

pecial correspondent, R. A. DONALDSON

on to "fi' pun' two" repeated at such a speed as to be bewildering. So it goes on with sheep passing through the ring at so many a minute.

He will repeat phrases passed to him by the breeder when bidding tends to flag. "They are right off the ling" or "They are all correct; never had a complaint," or "They're straight off t' moor."

Mr. Cloughton is in command; despite the upraised cane, the sheep are sold.

The day began early. Sheep and men were in the yard hours before the sale began. As 11.30 approached the crowds thickened, concentrated around the pens, and the talk grew. Your Swaledalemen are great talkers . . . about Swaledale that is.

You can pick them out easily. Many are in breeches and leggings or gum boots. They wear caps and smoke strong tobacco. Their dialect is rich. They will expose a sheep's

ewes? What were the points they were discussing? I asked Mr. J. Whitehead, of Ravenseat, right at the head of Swaledale, a good sound breeder and judge, whose 80 ewes made £5 12s. each.

"Well, they must be hard-looking sheep with good wool. They must be big framey sheep, for slender ones are not much good. They should be broad-backed and should walk well with their legs well set apart.

"Then their noses should be bright (white) shading up to black. Apart from that, on black wool at the back of the head they should be white. And, of course, their teeth should be short, for if they are long it is a sign that they will come out. Yes, it is against the sheep to have long teeth."



Mr. W. Hunter, of Muker, looking over some of the sheep at yesterday's sales at Hawes.

Sale of rams