

land, and we also import much manure. Our great waste in this direction is our failure to recover the fertilising material from sewage; at present this may be unavoidable, but there are other wastages—loss of manures from our farms—that might be remedied. We are far from blameless in the matter of forestry also. The conservation movement is attracting attention in Canada, and it will, let us hope, become a power there and also in the other dominions beyond the seas. First of all, however, the great educational crusade must come to impress upon the present generation that our patrimony is not to be squandered but to be used wisely, and handed on to our descendants in as good a condition as possible.

E. J. R.

INDIAN WHEAT FOR THE BRITISH MARKET.¹

THE last seven years have seen a rapid development of the Indian wheat trade with the United Kingdom. For the ten years ending 1902, when our average annual import of wheat and flour was 99 million cwt. from all countries, we received an average of 5 million cwt. from India; for the past seven years, however, our total import has been 114 million cwt. on the average, of which 16 million cwt. have come from India. The increase is due to several causes. Cultivation and irrigation have extended in India; the seasons in the northern provinces have, on the whole, been more favourable since 1903 than they were in the eight years following 1894; there has been a great improvement in the means of communication by ship, railway, and road, and, finally, the rupee has been maintained at the uniform rate of sixteenpence since 1898. For the past seven years the area sown with wheat in India has been more than 26 million acres, or about one-ninth of the world's wheat area (estimated at 240 million acres), and the average yield has been 11·6 bushels, one-eleventh only of the world's output, since this yield is lower than in many other countries. It is chiefly in the Punjab that the increase has taken place, and, as larger areas come under irrigation, this province will assume more and more importance as a producer of the world's food.

Great Britain takes more than 90 per cent. of the Indian exports of wheat, and the conditions obtaining in our markets have therefore to be studied seriously by the Indian producer, or rather by his expert adviser. At present Indian wheat does not come here in the beautifully clean, well-graded state in which Canadian wheat arrives, and it therefore commands a shilling a quarter less price. It is, however, more valuable than English wheat, and usually fetches about 2s. 6d. a quarter more, chiefly on account of its lower moisture content. The reason for its inferior condition is to be found partly in the circumstances in which the wheat is grown; most of the Indian wheat is grown on small peasant's holdings, and is threshed by being trodden out by bullocks on an earthen threshing-floor, and winnowed by hand in the wind, so that there is some mixing of varieties and a certain amount of dirt naturally gets in. Sir James Wilson states, however, that the wheat as it leaves the farm contains only about 1 per cent. of dirt, whereas when it reaches London the various handlers have contrived to dilute it 6 per cent., so as to increase their profits. It is considered that a revision of the terms of contract would get over this difficulty. The other questions—the mixing of varieties, and the low average yield—are matters for the experiment stations, but it seems probable that they can be satisfactorily dealt with.

¹ Memorandum on Indian Wheat for the British Market. By Sir James Wilson, K.C.S.I., late Financial Commissioner, Punjab, (Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa.)

NOTES.

THE portrait of Sir William Crookes by Mr. E. A. Walton, to which reference was made in our issue of February 9 (p. 481), was presented to the Royal Society before the ordinary meeting on Thursday last, February 16. In the absence of the treasurer of the fund, Lord Avebury, the presentation was made on behalf of the subscribers by Prof. Meldola, who acknowledged the active cooperation of his colleague, Prof. Pope. The necessary fund was contributed by about 130 Fellows of the society. Sir Archibald Geikie, as president, accepted the portrait on behalf of the society in a graceful speech. Sir William Crookes also expressed his thanks to the subscribers for the honour they had conferred upon him. In the course of his remarks he said that in two years he hoped to celebrate the jubilee of his fellowship, as his election dated from 1863.

SIR JOSEPH LARMOR, secretary of the Royal Society, has been elected a member of Parliament to represent the University of Cambridge, in the seat rendered vacant by the death of Mr. S. H. Butcher. Sir Joseph is Lucasian professor of mathematics in the University, and his election as one of its two parliamentary representatives places in the House of Commons a man of distinguished eminence who should command attention in that assembly, and be able to do something for the development of scientific method in national affairs.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT has been elected president of the Royal Society of Arts.

The British Medical Journal announces that the Fothergillian gold medal of the Medical Society of London, given triennially, has been awarded to Dr. F. W. Mott, F.R.S., for his researches on the nervous system.

AT a meeting of the executive committee of the British Science Guild, held on February 15, it was agreed that the Guild and the British Empire League should dine together, and it is hoped that it may be possible to entertain the Colonial Premiers when they are over for the conference. It was also reported that the Guild's committee on the coordination of charitable effort was in communication with the Social Welfare Association for London to see if it might not be possible for them to work together.

DR. J. C. BRANNER, professor of geology at the Leland Stanford Junior University, California, is starting on April 15, with six assistants, on an expedition to explore the western part of the north coast of Brazil. Its special object will be to determine how far the distribution of Brazilian fauna is affected by the obstruction of the Amazon River. The Government of Brazil has offered the explorers the use of a gunboat.

DR. EDWARD G. JANEWAY, one of the foremost diagnosticians in the United States, died at Summit, New Jersey, on February 10, in his seventieth year. At Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, he was professor of pathology and practical anatomy from 1872 to 1879, professor of diseases of the mind and nervous system from 1881 to 1886, and professor of medicine from 1886 to 1892. From 1898 to 1905 he held the chair of medicine at the medical school of New York University. He was health commissioner of New York City from 1875 to 1882.

THE recent death-roll in America includes the name of Dr. Leonard Parker Kinnicutt. He was born in 1854, and spent his student period at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Universities of Heidelberg and Bonn, and Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. He held a