It may mean some self-sacrifice, but self-sacrifice just now is the duty of all. There must not be recourse to expensive foods, the quantity of animal food must be reduced and replaced by vegetables, especially those rich in nutriment. Above all, there must be no waste, no throwing away, for example, of bones and dripping.

The little pamphlet is full of useful hints, based on accurate scientific knowledge and trustworthy statistics. The nation roughly spends 600,000,000*l.* per annum on its food. The authors estimate that it is not possible to save more than a tenth of this if due regard is to be paid to health and to the necessity of feeding children well at any cost. Sixty million pounds saved a year looks a large sum, but in these days, when millions are treated almost like sovereigns used to be, it will not be a very large fraction of the total necessary saving if the war is to be carried out to a successful end. Statisticians tell us that the ordinary savings of the nation in peace time amount to 400,000,000*l.* This will have to be increased to 1,600,000,000*l.*; and sixty millions is only one-twentieth of the additional 1,200,000,000*l.* which must go in the shape of taxes and loans to war purposes. The other nineteen-twentieths of this colossal sum must come from savings in other directions, or else the saving in food must be greater; we can only hope that Profs. Wood and Hopkins have placed their estimate too low.

## *SIR JOHN RHYS.*

THE wonderful romance of the life of Sir John Rhys and the great work which he did for Celtic learning have formed the theme of many a writer during the past week. In the pages of NATURE it is appropriate to speak of the man as he appeared to his scientific friends. The dominant qualities of his mind, as they were again and again revealed in intimate personal contact, were a never-failing freshness and elasticity together with the keen insight which seized at once upon the larger problems. "Well, what has been going on in science lately?" was his invariable question when we met after an interval; and his deep interest was always there, whether the subject was radio-activity, or some new light upon heredity and evolution, or Arrhenius's hypothesis of life-bearing germs, persisting from the eternal past, permeating all space, and driven by the pressure of light to all the worlds. And it was just the same in the province where he was master. John Rhys was always looking for the big, far-reaching conclusions. Place-names in the Iberian peninsula were the data for inferring a former southward extension of the Basques; while their northern migration was tentatively suggested by the names of chiefs among the Picts, that mysterious people of which scarcely anything is certainly known. The present writer has heard him tell of the Irish chieftain of whom it is recorded in time-worn stone that he was "the summoner of the fairies"—evidence for a fascinating interpretation of an ancient folk-lore. The fairies, being an older race, living in caves and clinging to the hills, would still be called on by their conquerors, to assist, for example, in repelling some new invader. Such were the delightful subjects of which he talked with scientific friends, and those who would wish to trace, in brief compass, the working of his master mind, cannot do better than read and re-read his presidential address to Section H of the British Association at Bradford (1900), in which he "endeavoured to substitute for the rabble of divinities and demons, of fairies and phantoms that disport themselves at large in Celtic legend, a possible succession of peoples, to each of which should be ascribed its own proper attributes."

With regard to his methods, one little incident may be recorded. About five years ago Lady Rhys told the present writer of a recent journey in Spain, and how the Principal, although with no conversational experience of the language, went up to a man, and, without any hesitation, began to ply him with questions, reading them out of a Spanish conversation book. In this way, taking opportunities as they occurred, he made remarkably rapid progress.

As head of a college it was always his anxiety to promote friendliness and sympathy, and he must, I think, have been satisfied that his efforts were attended with success. The kindness of his heart was well known to those of his many friends who were in trouble, and they at least could dimly imagine the blank left by the death, in 1911, of the comrade who had trodden with him the noble journey of his life.

It is hoped that these few sentences will enable the reader to realise in part the important place held by this great man in the brotherhood of learning, and will reveal something of the affection and admiration felt for him by his friends, and especially by the society to which he brought such high distinction. E. B. P.

## *NOTES.*

THE action of the Government in assigning a sum of about 30,000*l.* for the development of scientific and industrial research seems likely to have an important influence in British possessions overseas. The Commonwealth of Australia is apparently prepared to expend whatever sum is necessary to establish and administer an institution for such research, even if the cost amounts to half a million. The *Morning Post* of December 24 makes this announcement, but no details are given; and it is not clear whether the Premier of the Commonwealth expressed the intention of his Government to put aside the amount named for an institution of scientific research in relation to industry, or only gave a general assurance that such an outlay would be forthcoming when believed to be necessary. We shall look with close attention for the announcement that the substantial sum mentioned in the report has actually been granted for the establishment of a national laboratory in Australia.