

retaining the best features of our present arable and grass systems, it allows of considerable further development.

I shall not venture any opinion as to how far we could go in feeding ourselves. The accompanying table shows what we did before the war, and what, on our present technical knowledge, we could do now, assuming that the insurance problem of covering the extra risks of arable farming were solved, and assuming also a reasonable increase in the efficiency of labour.

In this country we can certainly hope to find the solution of the insurance problem, and I hope and believe of the labour problem also. Our output per acre of the arable crops is distinctly above that of many other countries, though we no longer lead as we did in the 'sixties. Our output per man, however, is not particularly good, and is open to considerable improvement. Those who know the agricultural labourer best have the fullest faith that his sterling qualities will enable him to rise to the new levels of industrial capacity which the man of science and the engineer have opened out for British agriculture. There are anxious days ahead, but with wise and sympathetic treatment the difficulties can be solved and our future assured.

Consumption and Production of Human Food in the United Kingdom. Million Tons per Annum.

	Consumption (1909-13)	Home production		
		Pre-war	1919 ⁴	Estimated attainable
Wheat, barley, and oats	13·4	6·5	7·0	10·0
Other cereals	3·5	—	—	—
Potatoes	5·5	4·8	6·3	7·0
Dairy produce	5·2	4·7	—	5·0
Meat	3·0	1·8	—	2·5

⁴ Mr. McCurdy gives the following details for 1919 (see *Times*, February 18, 1920):—

Consumption and Production of Food in the United Kingdom, 1919.

Commodity	Estimated total consumption	Proportion of home-grown and imported produce included	
		Tons	
		Home-grown Per cent.	Imported Per cent.
Wheat	7,395,000	... 27	... 73
Barley	1,950,000	... 64	... 36
Oats	4,297,000	... 92	... 8
Beef and veal	995,000	... 66	... 34
Mutton and lamb	368,000	... 57	... 43
Bacon and hams	447,000	... 19	... 81
Butter	180,000	... 58	... 42
Cheese	145,000	... 30	... 70

Notes—Cereals: The quantities are given after deduction for seed, and in the cases of wheat for tailings also. Bacon: The quantities given are for bacon as smoked or dried.

Obituary.

THE death of M. LUCIEN POINCARÉ, Vice-Rector of the University of Paris, on March 9, at fifty-eight years of age, will be felt as a great loss, not only to higher education in France, but also to the *entente* between the universities of that country and those of Great Britain. Only a fortnight before M. Poincaré came to England, accompanied by Mme. Poincaré, to open the British branch of the Office National des Universités et Ecoles françaises, housed with our own Universities of the Empire Bureau in Russell Square. His speeches on February 23, at the Bureau, and on February 24, at the University of London, where he was given a special reception, and at the Lyceum Club, left on his hearers a deep impression of charm, of width of knowledge, of sound judgment, and of sympathy. M. Lucien Poincaré, like his brother Raymond, former President of the French Republic, and his cousin Henri, the great mathematician, came from Lorraine. He was a physicist by training, and took his doctor's degree with a thesis on the resistance of fused electrolytes. Like most French physicists, he began his teaching career in secondary education, and was a master first at the Lycée of Marseilles, and then at the Lycée Louis-le-Grand in Paris. For a time he was *chargé-de-cours* at the Paris Faculty of Sciences; later he entered on an administrative career and held successively the posts of Rector of the Académie of Chambéry, of Inspector-General and then Director of Secondary Education, and of Director of Higher Education at the Ministry of Public Instruction. In October, 1917, M. Poincaré was appointed official head of the University of Paris (the most distinguished post in French university administration) in succession to the veteran M. Liard.

NO. 2633, VOL. 105]

THE death is announced, at sixty-four years of age, of PROF. HECTOR TREUB, the eminent professor of gynæcology in the University of Amsterdam.

THE death of MR. H. S. B. BRINDLEY is recorded in *Engineering* for April 9 as having occurred on March 28, only three days before his name appeared on the list of newly created Knights Commanders of the British Empire. Mr. Brindley was born in 1867, and educated at the Tokio Engineering College, where his father was an instructor. He had wide experience with several engineering firms, and will be remembered chiefly by his energetic development during the war of a disused artificial stone factory at Ponders End into a shell and gun factory employing more than five thousand hands, a task which could have been accomplished only by a very exceptional man.

By the death, lately announced, of MR. W. J. RAINBOW, the Australian Museum of Sydney, New South Wales, has lost the services of an entomologist who for twenty-four years laboured with assiduity and success to make the collection of insects and Arachnida in that institution worthy of a great colony, and has thereby laid all students of those classes under a lasting obligation. Mr. Rainbow's published works include treatises on certain groups of Lepidoptera and Diptera; but his main attention was given to the study, and especially the life-history, of spiders and scorpions. His papers on Arachnida are sixty-seven in number, one of the latest being devoted to a description and classification of the Araneidæ brought from Macquarie Island by the expedition under Sir Douglas Mawson.