

ranks in the army or various civilian jobs should make up a respectable number running into a few thousands. These men, young and fresh enough to benefit by refresher courses and special training, will surely come in handy to man the industries and laboratories that are to come into action in the shortest possible period.

In utilising the available man-power it would be of mutual advantage, to scientist and technician as well as to employer (private or Government), if a Scientific Man-Power Exchange be established by Government and all technical jobs are filled in through this agency. For it is unlikely that a mere maintenance of a register of scientific and technical personnel, as laid down in the terms of reference to the Committee, will be of much benefit to either party. We expect the Scientific Man-Power Committee will go into these questions in detail in formulating their recommendations for the development and exploitation of scientific man-power in India.

PASTURALOGY

PASTURALOGY concerns itself with the various aspects of pasture propagation and maintenance. The publications of the British Grassland Society is an urgent reminder of the necessity and importance of developing this branch of agricultural science in India, and its proceedings bring into relief the gross neglect of the technique of Pasture-growing in this country.

In Great Britain, America, Sweden and Denmark, intensive research is being carried on from the point of view of raising the grass yield, immunising it against pests either by breeding resistant strains or by chemical treatment, finding the types suitable for various soils and climates, increasing its nutritive value and numerous other economic and scientific possibilities. In India, on the other hand, except for a few ostentatious trials with Napier grass or Guinea grass or California grass little attention has been paid to the subject.

Unlike in other lands the Indian farmer does not believe in allotting lands exclusively for growing pasture or other cattle fodder. The straw that remains over after collecting the food-crops is the only standby for his cattle for a good part of the year. It is not surprising, therefore, that Indian cattle are notoriously

poor yielders. And this is due in no small part to the total neglect of 'pasturality'.

In this country for each big village or a number of small ones a patch of land is allotted as common pasture for cattle. There is no ploughing nor sowing nor weeding of this land. The little grass that grows after the rains is soon grazed even as it grows, and for the major part of the year there is no pasture at all. The animals are given no change of grassland from one end of the year to the other, nor is there a rotation of crop in this common patch.

Thus the cumulative effect of such a policy has been that about 400,000 acres of land allotted for cattle in villages are being run to waste at a time when we can ill-afford to spare a single acre of cultivable land. With the gross paucity of dairy products facing the growing population it is needless to emphasise that all this land, and if necessary more, should be exploited in a way that would yield the highest economic returns.

Had we paid sufficient attention to pasturality we should not have been now driven to the desperate necessity of seeking inferior substitutes for milk and milk products in the form of vegetable milks and vegetable fats. Elsewhere it has been shown, for instance, that the weight promotion and milk yield is about 30 per cent. less per acre of permanent pasture than with pasture wherein rotation of crops is practised. It is also known that certain types of soils are fitted for the growth of only certain types of grasses. Evaluation of the economic worth of various types of grasses and pastures by way of the grazing animal is now being increasingly recognised as a rational method. These findings of pasture research indicate the concrete benefits we could derive by putting them into practice and working out for ourselves methods of cultivation and utilisation of grasslands suited to our climes.

If we are, therefore, in earnest about increasing the yield of milk and milk products and raising the level of consumption we cannot pay too much attention to this aspect of the dairy industry. While the Indian Council of Agricultural Research could actively sponsor intensive research into pasturality, the State must always be on the alert to translate the outcome of such research by proper publicity, education through rural exhibitions and demonstrations, and if necessary, by subsidisation and legislation.

ALL-INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

THE Mysore Government have invited the All-India Council for Technical Education to hold their next meeting in Bangalore. This invitation has been accepted and the Chairman of the Council, Mr. N. R. Sarkar, has fixed May 29 and 30, 1947, for the meeting.

The Council will consider, among other matters,

- (i) a preliminary report on survey of technical institutions in the country;
- (ii) reports of the Visiting Committees ap-

pointed by the Co-ordinating Committee of the Council to visit some of the important technical institutions in the country and to make recommendations for their improvement;

- (iii) the question of formation of the Regional Committees of the All-India Council for Technical Education; and
- (iv) the location of the proposed Higher Technical Institutions for the North and the South.