whose yields can be taken in hourly. Multi-tier installations greatly increase the acreage.

Greens and fodder crops have been experimentally grown on nutrients with both artificial and natural lighting. High efficacy of the conveyor method was proved by experiments near the city of Simferopol in the Crimea.

WHAT ABOUT THE QUALITY?

Here is an excerpt from the scientific report, prepared by the Institute of Medico-Biological Problems jointly with several other research bodies which had taken part in this work: "The vitamin value of the biomass of the plants grown under artificial conditions is no lower, and in many cases much higher than that of the plants grown by traditional methods". The same can be said about the feeding value of such products. Besides, the new method for growing crops is ecologically clean because it involves no pollution of the groundwater.

PHYTODROME, THE FODDER WORKSHOP OF THE FUTURE

Let us imagine a complex which covers an area of 10 by 10 km. Dozens of such enterprises in the Soviet Union's southern areas with their high number of sunny days would solve the problem of fodder supplies for cattle. Under natural conditions the conveyor method can produce, on the average, 3.5 tonnes of alfalfa a day. In other words, a yearly yield can be obtained in a fortnight.

The new method has yet another important advantage: if plants are grown on nutrients and without soil, no farming will be needed. It means, hundreds of square kilometres of soil will not have to be annually reploughed. And just think of the amount of farming machinery to be released, and of fuel saved. And last but not the least, having assembled the whole of the fodder workshop on compact phytodromes, hundreds of millions of hectares can be sown to other crops.

Large space stations and interplanetary ships equipped with space "vegetable gardens" supplying the crews with vitamins are a thing of the future. But the idea can be used by Earthmen now.

NEWS

THE MEGHNAD SAHA AWARD FOR RESEARCH IN THEORETICAL SCIENCES FOR 1983 AND 1984

Prof. C. K. Majumdar of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Jadavpur, Calcutta, and Prof. G. Rajasekaran of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Madras received the Meghnad Saha Award for Research in Theoretical Sciences for the year 1983 and 1984 respectively.

THE JAGADISH CHANDRA BOSE AWARD FOR RESEARCH IN LIFE SCIENCES FOR 1983 AND 1984

Prof. D. P. Burma of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and Prof. A. S. Mukherjee of Calcutta University, Calcutta received the Jagadish Chandra Bose Award for Research in Life Sciences for 1983 and 1984 respectively.