

## Correspondence.

TO

THE EDITOR

SIR,

I fancy I promised in my last letter to send you some account of the Royal Agricultural Society's show held at Bristol in the first week in July. It was the 74th annual exhibition of what may not unreasonably be called the Premier Agricultural Society of the World. I was only able to spend one day at the show, although it lasted altogether for five days, and consequently, as I devoted a good deal of time to the Machinery and Implements Section, I was not able to see any of the livestock, which form an extremely important part of this splendid exhibition. To give some idea of the show, a few figures may be given. There were 21 show rings in which 2852 animals were judged in 352 classes, exclusive of 1436 poultry exhibits in 139 classes, and 61 classes of wool, honey, butter and other produce. In the Implements and Machinery Section there were 513 stands, in each of which a separate firm were displaying their manufactures, many of these consisting of engines and machinery shown in motion. During the five days of the show, the records of previous years have shown as many as 200,000 visitors, all of whom paid to enter: this year the show was honoured by a visit from His Majesty King George.

I had taken the precaution to obtain a catalogue before going to Bristol, and had studied the plan of the show and marked those stands which were likely to prove worth a visit. On reaching the show ground which I did at about 10 a.m., having left Oxford at 7 a.m., I decided to make a rapid inspection of all the stands first, before spending any time in detailed enquiries. The exhibits were bewildering in their complexity and it would be difficult for me to give you any idea of even a portion of what I saw. Labour saving devices were, of course, most to the front, and the feature of the year was perhaps the show of milking machines, due no doubt to the special competition which was held this year and for which a prize of £25 and a gold medal were awarded. The competition had been held previous to the show, and the winning machines were demonstrated during the show. The general principle is to draw the milk by means of suction: a rubber cup connected by

tubing to an exhausting machine being fitted over the teat: arrangements have also to be made to vary the suction in somewhat the same way as is done by the calf, otherwise the teats will be injured. The pressure, needless to say, requires careful adjustment. Another competition was for spraying dry insecticides to bushes or trees.

The seedsmen's stands would perhaps have struck a visitor from Madras most forcibly, as although the machinery is on a very large scale, yet there is some parallel in Madras in the use of machinery, while the agricultural seedsman's trade in India, is as yet unknown. There were 18 stands, all from firms who are not only engaged in marketing seed grains, but are all busy selecting and producing new strains, specimens of which were displayed at their stalls.

There were various things which I wanted to see, as likely to be useful at Coimbatore, at some future time. A seed harrow is needed, and I determined to see as many as possible of the 23 firms who were showing these implements. The general principle underlying their construction was the same, but there were many important differences in the details, generally in the way the tines were fastened to the frames. I eventually selected one which was constructed of thin round iron rod which had no bolts or nuts in it to get lost and, which I considered, would do very well for harrowing the soils at Coimbatore.

I had taken with me some samples of produce taken off the threshing floor at Coimbatore and other places, just as it is ready to put into the winnowing machine, so that I could get opinions about the suitability of any machine for the sort of work for which it was wanted. I decided on a firm which was located near where I am now staying, so that I should be able later to discuss the matter with them and test some machines personally. (This I have not yet had an opportunity of doing, but expect to go in to Shrewsbury next week).

Then I needed a light multiple furrow plough to test a theory I had formed with regard to ploughing at Coimbatore. I was perfectly satisfied with the work done by the bigger and heavier ploughs, but not with that of the small general purpose plough, and I wanted to try a plough which would keep in the ground and up to its work, by weight and not as is usual by draught. This matter was talked over with some of the big plough making firms, and I am still waiting to hear

some more particulars before I make up my mind. A new threshing machine was the next thing I had to consider, as the one now in use at the Farm will not last much longer. I decided to enquire at or stall where several machines were shown at work and have recently received a specification and plan of a machine which I fancy will be what is wanted. I found subsequently that this firm had also been chosen to instal a machine in the Cambridge School of Agriculture new farm, for thrashing experimental plots, so that I had evidently chosen a reliable one.

These were the more important things I had to look after but I found time to examine and choose several up-to-date Dairy utensils and apparatus, of which there was a very big display. I also enquired about some railings which might be wanted for the College compound, some fencing and about windmills, in view of the fact that it is possible that we shall have one erected at the Farm. I was rather struck by a small centrifugal pump shown, of 2 inches and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter which it is possible we shall see at Coimbatore before long. I looked at some patent cow sheds, which were distinguished by rotating iron frames into which the animals' heads were clamped in such a way that no chains were needed for tying the animals, while they were themselves able to stand or lie down in comfort.

Altogether it was a wonderful show, and although it was a long and busy day for me, I was enabled to save a good deal of time by getting all done in a day, which might otherwise have meant a good deal of correspondence.

Yours faithfully,  
R. CECIL WOOD.

### Departmental.

Dr. C. A. Barber, Government Sugarcane Expert, and Rai Bahadur K. Rangachari, Government Lecturing Botanist have been chosen to give evidence before the Royal Public Services Commission, with regard to the Madras Agricultural Department.

Mr. D. Ananda Rao, B. Sc., (Edin.), Assistant Director of Agriculture, Northern Division, has been placed in immediate charge of agricultural operations in the 4 districts of Kurnool, Cuddappah, Guntur and Kistna. The Nandyal Farm and the Farm at Sirvel, newly opened in the Sirvel Taluq of Kurnool District in connection