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**Editorial Notes.**

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Of the different sectional conferences held in February 1919 at Pusa, not the least important was the chemical conference which was presided over by Dr. W. H. Harrison, Imperial Agricultural Chemist and which got through a crowded and interesting programme for nearly a week. Mr. J. Mackenna, Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, opened the conference in a spirited address calling attention to the relative importance of the various subjects on the agenda and watched the proceedings and took part in the discussions throughout the session. There were two references from the Government of India on which the considered opinion of the agricultural chemists was invited, the formation of the Indian Chemical Service as formulated by the Industrial Commission and a Fertiliser Act for India. With regard to the former, the agri-chemists desired to be units in the Agricultural Department rather than be merged in a general

The Pusa  
Chemical  
Conference.

chemical service. As regards the latter, the necessity for a Fertiliser Act was pointed out, and a draft of the proposed Act was framed. The necessity for a uniform lowering of freights on manure carried by the several Railways was also pointed out.

The other subjects considered included the separation of Teaching from Research, the relation of Pusa to other Provincial Departments, soil surveys, standardising methods of analysis, holding of future conferences and bacteriology at the last of which Mr. C. M. Hutchinson, Imperial Bacteriologist presided. Some of the subjects discussed at this first chemical conference were of a domestic nature and chemists of native states and private firms had not been invited. We await the official publication of the Proceedings for a detailed review of the work of the conference which, from what we hear, was a most interesting and useful conference.

More than the discussions at the conference proper, every one who attended seems to have benefited by informal discussions with co-workers from other Provinces. The Agricultural Adviser seems to have been impressed so much by the success and usefulness of the conference that he agreed to invite as many of the chemical assistants as possible from all the Provinces for future conferences although the actual deputation depends on the local authorities. The Pusa staff was extremely hospitable to all the visitors and all provincial bias, if any existed, was merged in a happy united India, and it is no wonder because all had assembled at the great shrine of Science.

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We have received copies of the Madras Agricultural Calendar for 1919-20, (April 1919 to March 1920) and the Mysore calendar for 1919 (January to December). Both are illustrated and contain valuable reading matter and they are priced one anna each.

The Madras one is a rather bulky volume running to 110 pages while the latter runs to 54 pages. The Mysore wrapper figures a Mysore cooly woman with a sheaf of Ragi and is certainly more poetic than the map of farms which adorns the wrapper of the Madras contemporary. It is now widely accepted that the calendar is a very useful adjunct in Agricultural propaganda work and we know that the Madras Department practically took the lead in the matter.

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### **The mind of a Farmer or Ryot and its bearing on Agricultural Improvements.**

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Some time ago I noted in a publication that an enquiry had been made to see whether any correct idea of the mind of a farmer could be ascertained by enquiry.

The writer's conclusions were astounding, and read as follows—  
“That the mind of a farmer could not be conceived and is inconceivable.”

Without dwelling on the methods which were employed in the enquiry, as of these I have only a hazy recollection, I think that the subject might profitably be reviewed in a general way as it appeals to me.

There is no doubt that, whether to the citizens of Madras, London, New York, Edinburgh, or Paris, the farmers in their