been much different from what prevails in India to-day. At present it is difficult to estimate whether the Indian producer is working at a profit or loss but from the few data that are available and their comparison with the cost as estimated on some of the systematically run farms, it is clear that the producer has to be satisfied if he does not incur any loss. For example, it has been shown that there was a steady fall in the price of wholesale milk during the last ten years. An industry that rests on such slender basis cannot progress. A thorough reorganisation is necessary. This need not necessarily mean an increase in the price of milk from what prevails to-day. It is estimated that the cost of running the Milk Marketing Scheme in England comes to less than 1 per cent. of the value of milk sold. This cost is insignificant considering the great boon it has proved to the community. Similar results could be achieved in India too.

In India dairying is pursued largely as a side line and the whole industry, though colossal in its magnitude, has an individualistic outlook. Production of milk and rearing of good milch animals are, on the other hand, quite intricate processes. Hence a new orientation in the outlook is essential. For progress, co-operation is necessary and for bettering the condition of the dairy industry the absence of village co-operative organisations is urgently felt. It is such co-operative societies alone that can decide the breeding policy, create means to put it in practice, the price at which every villager will sell his milk and milk products, the quality of food that will be grown, the quantity of milk every child in the village will receive and so on. These village centres may in turn be linked with consumer's co-operative unions in the urban centres and thus a countrywide organisation set up. When the rural areas are organised the urban problem will be solved automatically or at least without much difficulty. The object of such co-operative centres should not merely be more profit for its members. Side by side it must increase the consuming capacity of the members and by better education help them to select or produce right type of food.

The problem of nutrition is thus closely linked up with better organisation of the dairy industry of the country, for, better diet means always more milk. In the past few years the milk problem in India has been widely discussed and learned theses produced. It is now time to translate these suggestions into practice.

N. N. Dastur.

CENTENARIES

Sharp, Abraham (1651–1742)

Abraham Sharp, an English mathematician, was born in Bradford in 1651. After apprenticing to a merchant at Manchester, he moved to Liverpool and devoted himself to mathematics. From 1684 to 1690 he was employed under Flamsteed in the newly founded observatory at Greenwhich and in 1688 he graduated with extraordinary accuracy a mural circle for that observatory.

Sharp calculated π to 72 places and the logarithms of all numbers from 1 to 100 and of all primes upto 1100 to 61 places.

Sharp died near Bradford, 18 July 1742.

Dallinger, William Henry (1842–1909)

William Henry Dallinger, an English biologist, was a Wesleyan minister by profession. From 1870 to 1880 he pursued microscopic researches into minute pathogenic organisms. This gave him a mastery of microscopical technique and earned him reputation for his classical investigations into the life-history of some micro-organisms, particularly flagellates. In one instance he had an individual monad under observation continuously for thirty-two hours. Incidentally he threw much light on the then controverted question of abiogenesis.

One of his investigations proved the futility of the ordinary precaution of boiling for sterilising. For it proved that though the temperature of boiling water was fatal to monads in an active state, their spores could stand a temperature upto 300°.

Dallinger died at Lee, Kent, 7 November 1909.

S. R. Ranganathan.

University Library,
Madras.