

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NUTRITION SOCIETY

EIGHTY-NINTH SCIENTIFIC MEETING
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF WALES, BANGOR, CAERNARVONSHIRE

23 and 24 JULY 1954

THE EFFICIENCY OF FOOD CONVERSION IN FARM ANIMALS

23 July, First Session

Chairman : PROFESSOR W. CHARLES EVANS, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C.,
Department of Agricultural Chemistry, University College of North Wales, Bangor

Food Conversion in Dairy Cattle

By J. EDWARDS, *Milk Marketing Board, Thames Ditton, Surrey*

Text for publication not received.

23 July, Second Session

Chairman : E. T. HALNAN, ESQ., M.A., *School of Agriculture, University of
Cambridge*

Beef Production

By M. MCG. COOPER, *Wye College, University of London*

The present national emphasis on beef production reflects the change in our nutritional circumstances that has taken place over the past 5 years. Brody (1945) rates beef cattle as the least efficient of farm animals in converting their food into human food, and it seems strange after conditions of food stringency to be moving into a less intensive agricultural economy. One cannot help but regard with some suspicion this optimistic prospect in view of our precarious economic position. Though the terms of trade are in our favour at present we have dissipated many overseas investments as a result of the war and we are much more dependent now on a capacity to export in order to secure food and raw materials from abroad. Industrial competition from Japan and Western Germany or a price recession in the United States and Canada, which control most of the world's apparent surplus of food, could very quickly return us to the position of being once again highly dependent on our own agriculture. With very limited land resources, this would mean that the main effort would have to be directed to crops for direct human