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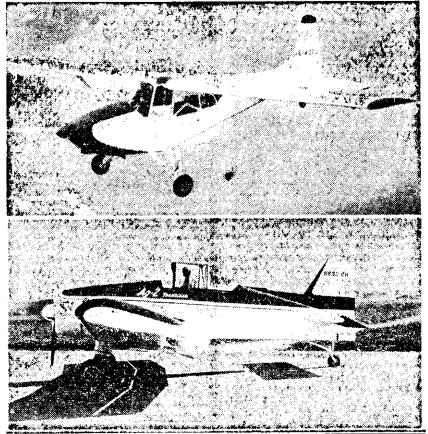
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Agriculture

THE First International Agricultural Aviation Show, to be held at Milson Aerodrome, Palmerston North, on November 9 and 10 (see also last week's Listener, page 6) will be the largest ever held in Australia or New Zealand. with over 100 agricultural exhibits, covering an area of seven acres. On the aerial side, it is expected that some 200 to 300 aircraft will take partamong them two ultra-modern planes which will be making their first public appearance here. These planes, one British-made, the other American, were specifically designed for agricultural work.

The British Percival E.P.9 (upper right), powered by a 270 h.p. engine, can carry a payload of 1800 lb., and is described as extremely manoeuvrable and easy to fly. The Transland Ag-2 (lower right) has a 450 h.p. radial engine and can carry a payload of 2000 lb. It is also fitted with built-in spraying equipment and topdressing hopper, and can become airborne at 40 m.p.h.

The official opening of the Air Show by the Minister in Charge of Civil Aviation, Hon. T. P. Shand, will be broadcast by 2ZA at 1.40 p.m. on November 9. This will be followed by a description of the fly-past. On Saturday, November 10, from 11.0 a.m. throughout the day 2ZA will broadcast commentaries on events at the show.



SHEPHERD'S CALENDAR

On the Just and on the Unjust by "SUNDOWNER"

7HEN something like two inches of water fell the other day on Canterbury, freeing us from all anxiety for the rest of the year, one enthusiastic farmer told the newspapers that it was a rain direct from God. But God is not so simple as that. He sends the rain in His own time and in His own

way, and both are OCTOBER 8 mysteries. As for the directness, the rain

that fell on Canterbury may have travelled hundreds, or thousands, of miles before it reached us. The sun may have lifted it from our own lakes or from Lake Eyre in South Australia; it may have come from the coast of Queensland or from the Indian Ocean, and fallen and risen again half a dozen times on its way to the thirsting flowers of Banks Peninsula. At present we must credit God with the direction as well as with the rain itself. But on the day on which this Canterbury farmer saw God just above him, the Admiral commanding the American expedition to the South Pole was explaining to an audience in Wellington how the work to be done down there during the geophysical year will save God from the necessity of worrying about where the rain falls, and, in fact, take the task out of His hands. In a few years, the newspapers made the Admiral say, science will stop rain from falling uselessly on the sea and divert it all to the thirsty areas of the earth's land masses, filling the desert with roses and pumpkins. I don't expect to live long

enough to see the farmer laughing and the Admiral eating his words; but if I do I will not see it as a direct sign

from God. I will see a sign as vague, faint and mysterious as predestination leaves on the brows of the elect. eķ. 8

BY the kindness of a Dunedin reader I have now some further information about my Metasoquoia glyptostroboides; most of it encouraging. A contributor to Gardeners' Chronicle, a London journal that seems to me to speak with some authority, says, after watching a specimen for five years, given to him as mine was given to me, and no

it arrived, that it OCTOBER 10 has grown already into a "most grace-

more impressive than mine was when

ful pyramid" twelve feet high; that the branches, "most symmetrically placed," curve outwards and then sharply upwards; that one of the most pleasing features is the bark, especially in early spring, when the outer layer is sloughed off and the new growth is pale chestnut; but that the tree's chief glory is "spectacular transformation" autumn, within a few days, from green to rich salmon-pink.

Though the contributor does not sav where he lives in England, he says that "the climatic conditions are far from being those of favourable districts," and that he was not sufficiently interested when his specimen arrived in a pot to choose a good site for it. He adds that

