The total area under crop in 1884-85 was 254,288 acres, of which rice occupied 92,186 acres, wheat 54,627, and other food grains 80,304 acres. There are no manufactures worthy of note, and the chief trade is the export of grain. The gross revenue in 1884-85 amounted to £42,048, the land yielding £35,507. The Tarai came under British rule at the time (1802) when Rohilkhand was ceded to the East India Company. The Government is said to have looked with indifference on this uninviting tract, but since 1831, when the revenue settlements were revised, this reproach has been less deserved. With an improved system of embankments and irrigation in 1851, the formation of the Tarai into a separate district in 1861, and its complete subjection to Kumáun in 1870, the moral and material history of this tract has greatly improved.

TARANTO. See Tarentum.

TARANTULA. The tarantula (*Lycosa tarantula)* be­longs to the mining section of the family *Lycosidæ* or Wolf Spiders. Its cephalothorax is dorsally of a brownish grey colour, whilst the abdomen is more distinctly brown, and marked with either two or three pairs of triangular black spots above the apex of the triangles pointing back­wards. One of the most striking specific characteristics of this spider is a large circular black spot which covers the anterior ventral half of the abdomen, the remainder of this surface presenting an ochreous hue. The largest species does not exceed ¾ inch in length. The eight eyes are arranged in three transverse rows, the anterior containing four small eyes, while behind this two pairs of larger eyes are arranged in two rows, the eyes of the hindermost row having between them a wider interval than the first pair.

The tarantula is widely distributed in southern Europe, round the shores of the Mediterranean. It occurs through­out Spain and is found in southern France, and extends into Asia. In Italy it is said to be especially common in Apulia, round the town of Taranto, from which place the name of this spider is usually derived. A species has also been described from northern Africa. It is usually to be found in dry pieces of waste land exposed to the sun. It lives in an underground passage, which it digs for itself and lines with its web. These passages are round in section, and sometimes an inch in diameter, and may extend to a depth of a foot or more below the surface. The tube first descends vertically for some inches, then bends at an obtuse angle, becoming vertical again near its closed end. The tarantula takes up its position at the first bend, where it can command the entrance, on the look­out for prey. In some cases the tube is prolonged above the surface of the earth by the formation of a small funnel, built up of fragments of wood and earth, and lined like the walls of the tunnel by the web. The females show considerable maternal care for their offspring, and some­times sit upon their egg sacs ; and the species, although somewhat fierce and combative amongst themselves, are capable of being tamed.

Tarantism. The tarantula has given its name to one of those dancing manias which overspread Europe during the Middle Ages. The bite of the spider threw the sufferer into a depressed state of melancholy, accompanied by various nervous disorders. The con­dition was accompanied by an increased sensibility to the power of music. The excitement of the nervous system amounted in some cases almost to insanity. The symptoms of the patient seem to have varied a good deal with the character of the individual attacked : the most common were a lividity of the body, icy cold­ness, great depression, nausea, sexual excitement, and loss of sight and hearing. The only means of arousing the sufferer from the lethargy into which he sank was music. Under the influence of this he awoke as it were, and commenced moving rhythmically, then began to dance, and continued increasing the rapidity of the motion until he fell exhausted to the ground. By this means it was considered that the poison of the tarantula was distributed through the system and worked out through the skin. If the music ceased whilst the patient was dancing, he at once sank back into the state of lethargy from which he had been aroused, but when thoroughly exhausted he generally awoke relieved and cured at least for a time. This dancing mania became contagious : one person caught it from another quite independently of the bite of the tarantula, and in this way whole districts became affected. One of the most peculiar characteristics was the attraction that bright pieces of metal, or brilliant pieces of colour, exercised over the imagination of the dancers. This was particularly marked in the later history of the disease. Each sufferer apparently admired one particular hue, the sight of which seemed to cause him the greatest rapture. Red was a very general favourite, though this colour threw St Vitus’s dancers into a frenzy of rage ; green, yellow, and other colours also had numerous admirers. Other colours, on the contrary, they detested, and attempted to destroy articles of the obnoxious shade.

In marked contrast to the effect produced by hydrophobia, tarantism appeared to evoke in its victims an intense longing for the sea, into which at times they would precipitate themselves; at all times they seemed to prefer the vicinity of water, sometimes carrying globes of this fluid whilst dancing.

In its origin tarantism appears to have been contemporaneous with the St Vitus’s dance of Germany. It first appeared towards the end of the 14th century in Apulia ; thence it spread gradually throughout Italy, and reached its height during the 17th century, by which time the dancing manias of the North had already died out. It affected not only inhabitants of the country but foreigners visiting it; age appears to have had no saving influence: children and old people alike commenced dancing at the sound of the tarantella, but as a rule women were more susceptible than men. From the 17th century onwards it has gradually declined, and is now practically unknown, the only relic of it being the graceful dance of southern Italy called the tarantella. The bite of the tarantula is painful but not dangerous, and the real cause of the phenomena described above must be sought in the temporary epidemic prevalence of an hysterical condition.

The *Lycosa tarantula* is figured in *Ann. Sc. Nat.,* 2d ser., iii. Zoologie, 1835.

TARARE, on the Turdine, a manufacturing town of France, and the second most populous in the department of Rhone, is 25 miles north-west of Lyons. Within a circle drawn 25 or 30 miles from the town more than 60,000 workmen are employed, and the value of the textile fabrics produced exceeds <£600,000 per annum. Tarlatans are made in Tarare on more than 3000 Jacquard looms. The manufacture of Swiss cotton yarns and crochet embroideries was introduced at the end of last century ; in the beginning of the 19th figured stuffs, openworks, and zephyrs were first produced. The manufacture of silk plush for hats and machine-made velvets, which was set up a few years ago, now employs 2900 workmen and 500 girls, the latter being engaged in silk throwing and winding. There are, besides, four or five dyeing and printing establishments, and silk looms working for the Lyons trade. An important commerce is carried on in corn, cattle, linen, hemp, thread, and leather. In 1886 the population was 11,848 (commune 12,980).

Till 1756, when Simonnet introduced the manufacture of muslins from Switzerland, Tarare lay unknown among the mountains. On the old castle to which the town owes its origin may be seen the arms of the family of Albon.

TARASCON, a town of France, in the department of Bouches-du-Rhône, is situated on the left bank of the Rhone, opposite Beaucaire, with which it is connected by a suspension and a railway bridge. It is on the Lyons and Marseilles Railway, 156 miles south of the former town. The church of St Martha, built in 1187-97 on the ruins of a Roman temple, rebuilt in 1379-1449, has a Gothic spire, and many interesting pictures in the interior, which is of fairly pure Pointed architecture. Of the original building there remain a porch, and a side portal with capitols like those of St Trophimus at Arles. The former leads to the crypt, where are the tombs of St Martha and Louis II., king of Provence. The castle, picturesquely situated on a rock, was begun by Count Louis II. in the 14th century and finished by King René of Anjou in the 15th. It contains a turret stair and a chapel entrance, which are charming examples of 15th- century architecture, and fine wooden ceilings. It is now used as a prison. The civil court of the arrondissement of Arles is situated at Tarascon, which also possesses a com­mercial court, a hôtel de ville, and fine cavalry barracks. Hats, and the so-called Arles sausages, are made here. The population in 1886 was 6647 (commune 9314).