

REVIEWS.

During the month we have been favoured with four of the publications of the Madras Agricultural Department.—(1) the Administration Report of the department for 1922-23, (2) the Year Book for 1923, (3) Bulletin Nos. 86 and 87. The outstanding features in the administration report are references to (1) the submission of proposals for doing away with the present certificate course at the College and its replacement by "vernacular courses in practical agriculture to be given in selected agricultural tracts or districts" and starting a special Intermediate Course for agriculture qualifying those who pass it for the B. Sc., Ag., Degree examination, (2) the success of Coimbatore 205 variety of sugarcane in the unirrigated areas of the Punjab, (3) the evolving of two new paddy strains by the Government Economic Botanist which give an average increase of 7 per cent, (4) the completion of the soil survey of the Periyar tract, (5) the commencement of the survey of the Ongole Breeding-tract, (6) the closing down of Anamalai and Gudiyatham farms.

The Year Book contains several useful articles of scientific and popular interest. Those that may be singled out for mention are "Short lessons to a cultivator" "Making of artificial farm-yard manure", "Feeding experiments on cows," "Casuarina root nodules and nitrogen fixation." Bulletin No. 86 is a reprint of a former bulletin on "the Ground, - Earth - or Pea-nut" written up to date. Bulletin No. 87 "List of important insects injurious to cultivable crops in South India" by Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Ayyar is issued as a companion to his previous bulletin on "the Entomologist's crop pest calendar for the Madras Presidency.

V. M. A.

The Madras Villagers' Calendar 1924-25 Price 1 Anna.

This publication of the local agricultural department has maintained its high level of excellence. The present issue contains several useful articles, in which the ryots are directly interested in this day to day life. Points on co-operation. Cattle diseases, insect pests and diseases on important crops like cholam and tobacco, ginger, arecanuts, paddy and coconut, useful hints on manures and manuring, cultivation of pine-apple and kolakkattai grass, use of fish-meal as food for Live-stock are subjects, most of which certainly do not suffer by repetition. We hope the low price, the very popular way in which the articles are written, and the variety in the choice of the subjects all add to the popularity of the Calendar and enhance its usefulness in spreading the knowledge of neo-agriculture amongst the ryot population.