

2. If practicable remove the animal to suitable place for treatment.

3. When haemorrhage is serious attend to it first. Delay may be fatal.

4. If there be no severe bleeding, remove dirt and congealed blood; clip the hair round the edges and trim off any shreds of flesh. Save the skin wherever possible.

5. Apply freely a good antiseptic at the earliest opportunity and continue its use throughout while the wound discharges. Fall back on household agents like soda and common salt in boiled water if no antiseptic is available.

6. Stitch wounds that require it as soon as possible—leave an opening for drainage.

7. Do not stitch punctured wounds—enlarge them if necessary. Explore for foreign bodies. Flush them out frequently with antiseptic or swab with iodine if available.

8. Protect wounds from flies.

9. Keep the patient in clean and wholesome surroundings.

10. Use any practicable means of restraint to prevent further damage to the wound and to facilitate healing.

11. Keep an eye on the patient's behaviour.

(From Journal of Agriculture, Victoria—August 1926.)

### ON COCONUT.

P. S. JIVANNA RAO. M. A.

*The birth-place of coconut* :—Controversy on the subject does not appear to have been closed. Divergent views are still held regarding the original home of the palm, Dr. O. F. Cook of America maintaining that America is its native home whereas O. Beccari the palm specialist considers that Asia was its original home. In India it is as old as 'God Ganesa.'



*Coconut not Cocoanut* :—The etymology of the word was well discussed years ago by Murray in his New English Dictionary and by I. B. Balfour in the Annals of Botany in 1887. It is wrong to spell the word any longer, as some publications in this country still do, with an 'a'.

*Malformations*.—People intimately familiar with the coconut palm have some peculiarity or other to report on it which is of a novel or out of the way nature. These peculiarities are mostly of the nature of malformations and the existence of so many in the case of a single species ought to be of special interest especially if the causes underlying them could be properly understood. The peculiarities are as follows (cf Botanical Abstracts Vol. 4 Entry 989.)

1. Transformation of inflorescences into branches with small inflorescence persisting at the top.

2. Increase in the number of female flowers. The inflorescence may be simple or with only one or very few branches and most of the female flowers may produce fruits, albeit of small size, or fewer fruits of a normal size may be produced.

3. Proliferation.. Female flowers may be transformed into small shoots (bulbils).

4. Fruit without seed.

5. Fruit with two cells.

6. Polychaetony. Three or four stems will be produced.

7. The second and third carpels may sometimes insinuate themselves and appear as outgrowths.

To the above abnormalities may be added what the writer saw some years ago in a village Tukacheri near Kumbakonam. The tree was about 60 ft in height and was of an odd-looking appearance with leaflets still united and it was barren to such a degree that people called it the male coconut. As female flowers were, however, present though in fewer numbers in the inflorescence it is too early to surmise any tendency towards sex separation (dioecism) in coconut palm as in the palmyra.

Instances of branching in the coco-palm have also been reported from time to time.