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Marsden have observed, "there is practically no literature on the subject of coir preparation", and the present brochure is intended to summarise what little scientific knowledge is available in regard to methods of extraction, properties and uses of Cocoanut fibre and related products. The author believes that like the cotton and other industries, the cocoanut-products industry also, will, in course of time become organised on factory basis; and the proper utilisation of products like fibre, shell, kernel, oil etc. can only be rendered possible by a more intensive scientific study of the products themselves so as to improve their competitive status, and by a co-ordinated production of all by-products at centralised factories. The pamphlet deals in detail with the chemical and technical principles involved in the preparation of cocoanut fibre, e. g. the stage of maturity of nuts to be used, methods for removal of husk or opening of nuts, separation of the fibre from the husk, degree of soaking, and retting, extraction of the coir from the retted husk, chemical and mechanical methods for quick retting of the husk like the Nanji process the Van der Jagt process, the "H. G." process etc., sorting the fibre, utilisation of the residues from fibre extraction, physical and chemical properties of the fibre and subsequent manufacturing processes, like bleaching, spinning etc. Though little of the author's own original investigations or observations are included, the pamphlet contains a useful summary and treatment of the available literature relating to the manufacture of cocoanut fibre and other cocoanut products.

(C. N.)

College News & Notes.

Our Tour. The Final Year B. Sc. Ag. students were taken on an Agricultural Tour for 10 days from 2nd to 13th October, the Lecturer in Botany and two Assistant Lecturers accompanying them. The party first proceeded to Aduturai where they were warmly welcomed by the Superintendent and staff of the station. The party went round the station observing the various lines of work in progress at the station. The superintendent explaining the students the various aspects of work including the trials with the sorgum-cane hybrids, soya beans, pillipesara for green etc. They were also told about the relative importance of several paddy varieties in the tract, Nellore samba being the most important and the various agricultural practices of the tract with regard to paddy cultivation. The party was later entertained at Tea by the Station Staff and left for Tanjore the same evening. The party then proceeded to Thillastanam and Trivadi where they were shown by the Tanjore Demonstrator some of the plantain and betel vine gardens and the methods of cultivation explained. After studying the agricultural practices of the places visited the party took the opportunity to see the local Mandir where the statue of Saint Thyagaraya is situated and the sanskrit college situated on the banks of the Cauvery. On their return from Trivadi the students played a Hockey Match with the Tanjore United Club team. The play was appreciated though our students lost the match by 2 goals to one. Early the next day the party visited Pattukotai and had a thorough study of the areas to be brought under the Mettur project. By the morning of the next day the party reached Trichinopoly Town and visited the Grand anicut and the trial plots run by the Lalgudi Sivagnanam Society, the Deputy Director of Agriculture Mr. Kolandaiswami Pillai accompanying the students. Mr. Pillai had arranged for a sumptuous tea at the Grand Anicut and also gave an address to the students advising them to take up private farming. He explained how he has been trying to solve the unemployment problem by obtaining free of cost 50 acres waste lands situated in the Perambalur Taluk to each one of the graduates of the College at a nominal rate of Re. 1

assessment per acre. The Secretary of the Lalgudi-Sivagnanam Society entertained the students at a grand dinner and gave an interesting lecture on the several advantages they as members of the society were deriving by adopting our improved methods of agriculture particularly the growing of paddy strains and new sugarcane. Returning to Trichinopoly the same day the students played some hockey and tennis matches with the National College Teams. The hockey match ended in a draw whilst the visitors lost the match in Tennis.

That very night the party took train to Koilpatti where the farm staff received them the next morning. Though the stay at Koilpatti was very short the students made a detailed study of the work of the farm and the Superintendent of the station explained the students the agricultural conditions of the tract represented by the station and brought to their notice some facts and figures obtained at the station with regard to the dry land cultivation of the tract. The next day the party left for Madura.

At Madura the students visited Pasumalai where the American Mission has established an Agricultural School and is running a farm having Dairy, Poultry, piggery and orchards. Tirumangalam was next visited where the students learnt the economics and the various aspects of the cultivation of rose and jasmine for the Madura market. The cultivation of paddy, plantain and coconuts was studied at Sholavandan north of Madura. The party also paid a visit to the Municipal Sewage Farm situated about five miles from Madura and later left for Palni. At Palni, though it was raining heavily the students proceeded to an adjacent village and observed the Kolinji (*Indigofera tinctoria*) cultivation as a green manure crop grown over 500 acres. The demonstrator there enlightened the students with a description of the several agricultural practices. In the evening the local agricultural society entertained the party at Tea to which Mr. R. C. Broadfoot, the Deputy Director of that Circle had also come. Mr. Jivanna Rao, Lecturer in Botany brought to the notice of the students the excellent work done by the society in improving the agricultural situation of the place. Mr. Broadfoot explained to the students several advantages of taking to private farming. Leaving Palni the next day the party returned to Coimbatore late in the evening.

Students' Corner. On Thursday 1st September a public meeting was held when Mr. E. H. Stanes spoke on the development of wireless broadcasting with Mr. N. G. Charley in the chair. After narrating in a general way about the development of wireless broadcasting he discussed the possibilities of its development in India. The main retarding force in India against its rapid development and popularising was stated to be a disturbing atmospheric and as such it may not have a bright future as in other countries. The lecture was extremely interesting and was well appreciated. The lecturer also answered some questions at the end and after the concluding speech of the president the meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks.

Athletics. Our College entered for the Coimbatore Hockey tournament this year. We lost our first match which was against the Coimbatore United Club a very strong local combination but our opponents were disqualified by the Committee for violation of rules. We thus qualified for the Semifinals and in our next match defeated the Reserve Police by 3 goals to 1. The finals which were played on Saturday the 29th October with the Stanes European High School provided a very interesting struggle and although we led early by one goal, the match ended in a draw of one all. The replay on Monday the 31st October was even more exciting and packed with thrills right from the beginning. It was any body's game and we lost the match by a narrow margin of 3 goals to 2. K. M. Narayanan played a great game at centre half on both occasions.

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Cricket. On Saturday the 15th October our College met the Forest College on a friendly game on our grounds. Our team entering first scored 154 runs for 6 wickets and declared. Ramanatha Rao was top scorer with 41 runs, H. Shiva Rao coming next with 25. The Forest College were all out for 34 runs, Lakshmanan capturing 5 wickets for 12 runs, Narasinga Rao 3 for 15 and Narayanan 1 for 5. It may be mentioned that Forest College were handicapped by the illness of their best all rounder Mr. K. Krishnamurthi who took ill the previous day and could not play the match.

Y. M. C. A. Tournament. It will be recalled that the completion of the original fixtures our team tried with the Coimbatore United Club for championship honours. The Committee forthwith arranged an extra fixture for the 22nd October to decide the championship. Winning the toss we entered first and scored a very creditable total of 166 runs against the best bowling talent in Coimbatore. The game was very lively throughout and Suryanarayanamurthi of Class I turned out to be the hero of the day. He was top scorer with 40 runs included in which were 5 fours and a soaring sixer. Shiva Rao (30), Narasinga Rao (22), Varadarajan (19) and Thomas (17) were other useful run getters. The Coimbatore United Club entering in their turn made a very disastrous start and lost 2 wickets for a mere paltry 4 runs. Later batsmen adopted purely defensive tactics with the result that 5 wickets were down at the close of the game for 52 runs. Thus the match ended in a draw. To obviate further draws the Committee decided to play a two day match on the 11th and 12th November. On the previous night of the match the Coimbatore United Club Captain asked for a postponement to some date in December but as this would involve the violation of the tournament rules we were reluctantly obliged to disagree. The Coimbatore United Club team after further consideration decided to withdraw from the tournament and failed to turn up for the match. Thus we were declared winners by the Committee and the Rhondy Shield has come back to us after a lapse of nearly 10 years.

Cricket Tour. For the first time in the annals of our College our Cricket Team ventured on a tour and the first tour came off on the 28th October when we met the Palghat Town Team at Palghat. The homesters had first knock and were dismissed for 83 runs. Varadarajan bagged 3 wickets for 16 runs, Lakshmanan 2 for 20, Narasinga Rao 2 for 18 and Narayanan 1 for 19. Our team passed their total for the fall of a single wicket, Ananda was top scorer with 39 (not out) Varadarajan scored 22 (not out) and Narasinga Rao 17 (retired hurt). Thus the College team won the match by 8 wickets.

Tennis. The Tennis courts which were under repair during the first term were ready for use by the beginning of the second term and there has been a great rush among students to join the tennis section. There are now 84 members equally distributed among the three courts the classification being carried out on the individual proficiency of each member in the game. As usual there has been some changes by lower court players challenging others in the higher courts and thus winning their way for a place in the higher courts.

Obituary. We have to record with great sorrow the demise of young Mr. M. Ranga Ram a student of the first year class at the early age of 20 at his residence. Mr. Ranga Ram was a member of our cricket team and was actively interested in sports. Of a genial temperament and affable character he made many friends during his short stay of 3 months at the College and went home quite hale and healthy for the Michaelmas recess. He suddenly took ill and the news of his death came as a shock to his many friends and acquaintances. At a meeting of the students and staff of the College it was resolved to send a message of condolence to the relatives of the deceased.

Go back to the Land. A public meeting of the Students' Club was held on October 1932 when Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar B. A. B.L., M. L. C., ex-Minister for Development addressed a large gathering on the theme "Go Back to Land". The lecturer after dealing in a lucid manner on the conditions obtaining in the villages at the present day analysed the defects of the present day and exhorted the students to go back to the land and help the country in its rapid advancement. He said that the students of this College were best suited to take up reconstruction work in the villages. The President, Mr. C. Tadulingam endorsed the views of the lecturer and assured him that his students will not be failing in enthusiasm to perform their duty to the country. After the usual vote of thanks by the Secretary the meeting terminated.

THE LATE RAO BAHADUR J. CHELVARANGA RAJU

The news of the passing away at Saidapet, on Friday, the 22nd of October 1932—due to diabetic carbuncle—of Rao Bahadur J. Chelvaranga Raju, Retired Deputy Director of Agriculture, must have come as a rude shock to many of his friends and admirers in the Department. He retired about ten years ago, from official life, but not from active service, for after retirement he was taking a large amount of interest in affairs of local self government, and was in fact, at the time of his death, the Chairman of the Saidapet Municipality.

The Late Mr. Raju passed out of the Agricultural College, Saidapet, in the early nineties, and entered service as Farm Bailiff at the Saidapet Farm. During well nigh three decades of service, he steadily mounted, through merit and hard work, the official ladder, being finally one of the first Indians to get into the Imperial Service. As a lecturer in agriculture for some years at the College of Agriculture, Coimbatore, he won the esteem and regard of his students by his wide and experienced knowledge of practical agriculture. As an executive officer, he endeared himself to all his subordinates, by his sympathy and by the readiness, with which he would always set about, to teach junior officers and help them even in matters of official routine. As a propagandist, he was eminently successful, for he combined in himself a rare knowledge of practical agriculture, and a clear exposition in the vernacular of scientific facts. He was in fact publishing a tamil monthly "The Agriculturist", and in spite of vicissitudes, was sticking to it, till his very end.

Mr. Chelvaranga Raju came of a well known Raju family of Tinnevely. His elder brother—the late Rao Bahadur J. Dharmaranga Raju (also an 'old boy' of Saidapet)—was the Dewan Peishkar of Pudukottah. His younger brother, Mr. J. Ranga Raju, is the well known novelist and dairyman of Madras. All the three brothers believed in agriculture as a profession, and practised it, successfully.

Mr. Chelvaranga Raju was one of the founders of the Madras Agricultural Students' Union; he was its first treasurer, a Vice

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