

Notes.

Making compost:—In the village of Eppothuvendran, a black soil dry village between Ettiyapuram and Tuticorin, I came across an excellent practice of making compost. There was a depression in the ground some distance from the village where silt from the adjoining lands accumulates in the rainy season. This silt was at the time of my visit being removed. It was still quite wet. A layer about 9" thick was spread on the ground in a neat rectangular area. On this, a layer of ordinary cattle manure about 4" thick was evenly spread. This was again covered with a layer of wet silt on which cattle manure was again spread. Alternate layers of silt and cattle manure were then built up. One compost stack which was being built was about 5 feet high. I enquired the reason why this system was adopted in preference to the usual system of keeping the cattle manure in a pit and periodically covering it with silt and was given the very sound explanation that there was no silt available near the village and as the manure was mixed with silt in the proportions of about one to three, this saved considerably in carting, especially as the manure was to be used in lands distant from the village.

H. C. SAMPSON.

The Agri-Horticultural Show held on 26th and 27th February in the Agri-Horticultural gardens at Madras must be considered a success so far as collection of gate money and the attendance of visitors are concerned. It is generally known in Madras as "The Flower Show." The horticultural side was a fair show, but the judges remarked that the economic section was not so fairly represented as it used to be in some of the previous years. Economic and Agricultural sections have, more or less, been side shows so far and, if what we read in the papers be partly true, it looks as though the side shows will be abolished unless a keener interest

is evinced in these both by the organising committee and the exhibitors. A specimen of a paddy plant which had tillered profusely as a result of single planting and the collection of Cambodia and Karunganni cotton were amongst the exhibits of the Madras Agricultural Department which were much appreciated.

The Sugarcane Harvester:—It has been said that the sugarcane industry is one of a rapidly diminishing few “in which the hand labour of a century ago has not been ruthlessly routed by science and superseded by tireless machinery.” As a protest against this, *The Sugarcane Harvester* has arrived. It was invented by Mr. George D. Luce of New Orleans. It took him nearly 15 years to perfect this and “The Luce Sugarcane Harvester Company” at New Orleans are said to be hard at work turning out machines for the 1915 crop. It is said to be an all-the-year-round worker and, besides harvesting cane, it is capable of ploughing, cultivating, road making, grading etc. By an ingenious arrangement it harvests, tops and strips the cane. Canes which have tumbled down staud erect as the harvesting appliances approach the clump. Two men are required to operate the machine which will cut, top and strip from 150 to over 200 tons of cane per day. The machine is worked by a gasoline engine which drives the machine and also furnishes the requisite power for its working. Surely we are in a world of progress. T. S. V. (*From the Louisiana Planter*).

The doctrine of Telegony:—The principle of telegony is that, when a female is impregnated by a male to which she is bred, all her subsequent offspring, regardless of their actual male parents, will show influence of the first mate of the female. Telegony is well illustrated in the case of birds, especially pigeons and domestic fowls so that poultry keepers have to take care in the first mating of their young fowls. Superfetation that is, the possibility that females may be bred twice with an interval of some hours or days,

by two different males and produce offspring, some of which are due to the first male and some to the second, is often mistaken for telegony. Superfetation is common in dogs and other lower animals, so that one who aims at a pure breed of dogs should not allow his bitch to be crossed a second time by an inferior breed even a few days after it had been bred by a pure one. Several instances of supposed telegony have been noted in cattle, horses and other animals, but these might be due to atavism or superfetation. As the result of a series of experiments, conducted recently, the inference is drawn that telegony may be neglected in eugenics and stock-breeding. K. C. J. *From the Journal of Heredity.*

Sugar and diamond:—"A Missouri paper ventures the information that the day will come to pass when they will make diamonds out of sugar. The route of demonstration is the chemical one, as sugar contains carbon and diamonds are composed of carbon shuffled together molecularly. The paper claims that some real diamonds were produced but that they were destitute of any value commercially. Scientists, it is claimed, have often expressed the hope that an improvement in the process of manufacturing, diamonds could be effected whereby the necessity of dissolving the carbon in molten iron may be dispensed with and the required combination of great pressure with great heat may be brought about by some such operation as squeezing the carbon between red-hot metals. If King Sugar goes on this new exploring expedition, we may hear some day the expression. "Acres of diamonds":—K. K. R.—*From the Louisiana Planter.*

The Students' Club.

Literary Section:—

Sir Narayan Chandavarkar's stay in Coimbatore was availed of to request him to deliver an address to the students of the

College, which he kindly did on 24th February 1915. The substance of the address was this :—

Recalling the days of his studentship in the Elphinstone College, Bombay, over 40 years ago, he wished he could join the Agricultural College now as a student. He had received only literary training and had been a bookworm, and probably a certain amount of such training is necessary to enable even agricultural students to idealise themselves. He again recalled the days when the late Mr. K. T. Telang objected to the affiliation of the Poona Agricultural College to the Bombay University on the score that he wanted that India should not remain an agricultural country, but all the same the motion was carried. The learned visitor said that no kind of reform would ever succeed in India, political, religious, social, moral or industrial, unless India's agriculture was greatly improved. Agriculture has been the basis of the Hindu Shastras and of Indian polity. An agriculturist's life was the best, as it was free from anxieties and the life from which others have to draw their lessons. The farmer is considered to belong to a lowly class, but innocence, purity and godliness are his traits. He gets up very early, toils through the routine and drudgery of life, does not complain, does not think of reputation and his one object in life is to do his work, trusting in God. There is a lot of wisdom to be learnt from peasants and, according to the Vishnu Purana and the Jew's Bible, Hari dwells among them. Sir Chandavarkar has the knack of drawing moral lessons from actual observations of men and things and his addresses are brimful of interesting anecdotes. On behalf of the students, the Principal tendered a hearty vote of thanks to the distinguished and learned visitor.

Games.

Hockey:—In continuation of the match won by us and reported in the last issue, three more matches were played with the

Coimbatore Gymkhana, and all of them were equally matched and some interesting and exciting game was witnessed. The first match was drawn, one goal each, the second was won by the Gymkhana, 2 goals to one and the third was won by us, 2 goals to *nil*. Evidently our players have justified the colours awarded to them.

Tennis:—The Tennis Tournament for the Cecil Wood cup was held in the first week of March. As many as 20 students, competed and the finals were played on 7th March 1915 between A, Jesudasan of Class III and K. Rangaswami Pillai of class I. Both were well matched and some exciting game was witnessed with the result that Rangaswami Pillai won the match. The results were 2—6; 6—2; 6—3. The Principal, in requesting Mrs. Harrison to present the cup to the winner, gave a history of the institution of the present cup by Mr. B. Dwaraknath who was himself the winner for three years in succession of the cup then instituted by Mr. Wood himself. After Mrs. Harrison presented the cup to the winner, a delightful evening came to a close with cheers to Mrs. Harrison for presenting the cup. We understand that a medal will also be presented to the winner and the runner-up.

A tennis match was played between the College and the Coimbatore Club on the new American system. There were 3 sets of players (doubles) on each side playing in 3 different courts, and each team had to play each of the opposite teams a match of 9 games, sides being changed every odd game. Each team therefore plays 27 games. Out of a total of 81 games played, the Coimbatore Club secured 50 games, while the College players could score only 31 games.

Departmental Notes.

1. Mr. S. Subbayya, Dip. Agri., Assistant Farm Manager, Central Division, to act as Farm Manager, 2nd grade, with effect from 1st February 1915.

2. Mr. P. S. Venkuswami Aiyar, L. Ag., appointed to act as Assistant Farm Manager and posted to Palur.

Estate.

During February, Mr. C. G. Leftwich, I. C. S., Director of Agriculture, C. P., and Mr. R. G. Allen, Principal of the Nagpur Agricultural College, visited the College and Farm, as also Sir Narayan G. Chandavarkar, retired High Court Judge of Bombay.

Mr, P. S. Ramaswami Aiyar, B. A., B. E. who was formerly Supervisor in the Department of Industries, is now the P. W. D. Officer in immediate charge of the buildings in the colony of the Agricultural College.

Owing to the institution of 2 courses at the College and the number of students having largely increased, additional accommodation will be provided in 4 new blocks, each of 10 rooms, to the west of the present blocks 7 to 10. The work is being rapidly pushed on and is expected to be completed long before the new admissions in June. The estimate is for Rs. 24,600 and the work is being done departmentally and not on contract.

The Headmaster, staff and students of the Government Training School, Coimbatore visited the college and were shown round the several sections by the staff. They played a Badminton match with the Officers' Club and were defeated by 2 games to nil.

Some Weeds of the Central Farm, Coimbatore.

(Continued.)

Umbelliferae.

Hydrocotyle asiatica, Linn. Vallarai Keerai. வல்லாரைக்கீரை

Rubiaceae.

Oldenlandia umbellata, Linn. Saya vair. சாயவேர்

Oldenlandia aspera, DC.

Spermaceoce hispida, Linn. Nathai churi. நத்தைச்சூரி

Compositae.

Vernonia cinerea, Less. Neichitti chedi. நெய்சிட்டிச் செடி

Vernonia anthelmintica, Willd. Kattu seeragam. காட்டு சீரகம்

Ageratum conyzoides, Linn.

Grangea maderaspatana, Poir. Masi patri? மாசிபத்திரி?

Erigeron asteroides, Roxb.

Blumea lacera, DC. var glandulosa, Kattu mullangi. காட்டுமுள்ளங்கி

Laggera aurita, Schultz.

Sphaeranthus indicus, Linn. Kottai karanthai கொட்டைகாரந்தை
or Vishnu or விஷ்ணுகாரந்தை
karanthai.

Vicoa auriculata, Cass.

Mukkutti poondu. மூக்குத்திப்பூண்டு

Xanthium Strumarium, Linn.

Marul oomathan. மருள் ஊமத்தன்

Flaveria australasica, Hk.

Eclipta alba, Hassk.

Karasaranganni. கரசாரங்கண்ணி

Blainvillea latifolia, DC.

Glossocardia linearifolia, Cass.

Tridax procumbens, Linn.

Volutarella divaricata, Bth.

Lactuca Heyneana, DC.

Sonchus asper, Vill.

Sonchus olraceus, Linn.

Sonchus arvensis, Linn.

C. TADULINGAM.

(To be continued).