work rather than on public work. A retrenchment under this head which will be a very proper one, will yield at least Rs. 35,000 for each district and more than 6 lakhs for the whole of the presidency, not a negligible item. There are more items under which retrenchment can be effected; but if committees for retrenchment are appointed all the members cannot be expected to be above being influenced by particular officers and the labour of such committees will be fruitless and no tangible reduction will be possible. One hard financier must be put on special duty and he must invite suggestions from officials and non-officials and report after investigation.

Correspondence.

Note :— A further reply from Mr. P. N. Krishna Iyer has been received regarding the controversy about the host plants of *Pempheres affinis*. A note to the effect that "further correspondence on this subject will cease" had been sent by the Editor for publication in the July issue but unfortunately this had been, by oversight, omitted in the final proof stage. It is not proposed to publish any more correspondence on the subject in the journal. — *Editor.*

Review.

The Cultivated Races of Sorghum. J. D. Snowden. Adlard & Son., Ltd., London. 1936. 10 s. 6 d. Sorghum is an important cereal. It is the staple food crop of the poor in many parts of the world. In the British Empire its importance to the indigenous population is obvious. With rich and bulky fodder, we have in it a crop pre-eminently suited to the needs of both man and beast; and its improvement is thus naturally engaging the attention of many Economic Botanists in the British Empire and in the world. In America work on sorghum is much advanced as it is the crop that occupies areas not quite suited to maize. It is, therefore, no wonder that with the appointment of Mr. H. C. Sampson (the late Director of Agriculture, Madras) as Economic Botanist, Kew, his interest in economic botany found its first expression in this desire to increase the knowledge on this important crop. Knowledge is power and the power to handle a crop is the measure of its useful handling. The usual canons of classifying wild plants receive a serious setback when it is a question of dealing with a cultivated one. The difficulties increase, when, as in the case of sorghum, it is a case of reconciliation with much valuable previous work, done at many centres of Europe by nations interested in their colonial dependencies.

The first comprehensive account of the Races of Cultivated Sorghum is thus available in this valuable work by Snowden. As the retired Economic Botanist of the Uganda Protectorate he is familiar with the plant in the field and has come to his task with an intimacy of touch that makes his classification alive and real.

In addition to the very detailed systematic work, Mr. Snowden has contributed a historical study of sorghum from literature. He has also elucidated many obscure points in its botany. This work is thus a landmark in the knowledge concerning sorghum. It is hoped that with this equipment the many sorghum workers in the empire and the world will go ahead with accounts of the sorghums in their respective regions and thus complete our knowledge of the sorghums of the world.

The Trustees of the Bentham Moxon Fund are to be congratulated on their warm response to the request of Kew to finance this very valuable publication and in securing so able and experienced an Economic Botanist as Mr. Snowden to work at it.

G. N. R.

Crop & Trade Reports.

Receipts of raw cotton at presses and spinning mills.

Loose cotton.

	Bales of 400 lbs. against an estimate of 540,700 bales for 1935—36.	Figures for corresponding period in previous year.
1—2—36 to 19—6—36	306,807	271,357
,, 26—6—36	330,364	284,966
,, 3—7—36	352,099	296,418
,, 10—7—36	400,366	322,160
,, 17—7—36	422,549	334,131
,, 24—7—36	439,111	344,026
,, 31—7—36	456,152	352,220
,, 7—8—36	467,021	358,687
,, 14—8—36		

Pressed Cotton.

	Receipt in mills.	Export by sea	Import by sea.
1—2—36 to 19—6—36	197,424	84,043	73,511
,, 26—6—36	217,695	91,147	73,875
,, 3—6—36	225,561	95,133	74,428
,, 10—7—36	245,924	113,784	74,926
,, 17—7—36	257,319	127,772	74,926
,, 24—7—36	269,449	141,247	75,110
,, 31—7—36	278,168	153,578	75,162
,, 7—8—36	284,475	156,756	90,677
,, 14—8—36			

Cotton—1936—37 first forecast report. The average of the areas under cotton in the Madras Presidency during the five years ending 1934—35 has represented 9 per cent of the total area under cotton in India.

The area under cotton up to the 25th July 1936 is estimated at 286,300 acres. When compared with the area of 301,400 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, it reveals a decrease of five per cent.

Central Districts and South—Mainly Cambodia tract. The area in the Central districts and the South represents generally the last year's crop left on the ground for second pickings before the plants are removed in September in compliance with the provisions of the Pest Act. The area in these districts fell from 186,000 acres to 161,200 acres i e. by about 13·3 per cent. The decrease is marked in Coimbatore, Madura and Ramnad. The yield is expected to be generally fair.

Westerns Tract. The area under Westerns rose from 75,800 acres to 81,500 acres. The increase is marked in Anantapur owing to the favourable season.

Cocanadas tract. The area under Cocanadas cotton rose from 9,700 acres to 15,100 acres. The increase is marked in Guntur.

The wholesale price of cotton lint per imperial maund of 82-2/7 lbs., as reported from important markets towards the close of July 1936 was about Rs. 19—9—0 for Cocanadas, Rs 25—11—0 for red northerns, Rs. 19—1—0 for westerns, Rs. 25—4—0 for Cambodia, Rs. 24—3—0 for Coimbatore—Karunganni, Rs. 23 for Tinnevelly Karunganni, Rs. 23—14—0 for Tinnevellies and Rs. 20—6—0 for Nadam cotton.

Sugarcane 1936—37. The average of the areas under sugarcane in the Madras Presidency during the five years ending 1934—35 has represented 3·6 per cent of the total area under sugarcane in India.