

THE JOURNAL
OF
The Madras Agricultural Students'
Union.

Vol. VI.

September 1918.

No. 9.

Editorial Notes.

We invite the attention of our readers to the address which Dr. Coleman delivered at Lahore in January 1918 as President of the Agricultural section of the Indian Science Congress. Examining the development in Indian Agriculture during the past 10 years the Doctor finds, the two lines of work which appear to have yielded the most striking tangible results to be

Indian Agri-
cultural
development.

- (1) The improvement of the staple crops of the country by selection and the organised distribution of the improved seed obtained; and
- (2) The transfer of the best indigenous methods of cultivation and the best indigenous implements as utilized in certain areas to other more backward parts of the country.

This success is attributed firstly to the comparatively low expenditure involved on the part of the ryot in carrying out such improvements and secondly to the ease with which results are achievable under the conditions of low produc-

tion now prevalent in our land. He is of opinion that plant breeding promises to do rather more for the Indian ryot than it has done for the European farmer.

The development of the manurial resources of our country, he considers, to have been comparatively neglected in the past and points out that the present war with the consequent restriction of exports has given our country a splendid opportunity for development in this direction.

He sees evidence that the condition of the Indian ryot as regards capital is steadily improving and the ryot shows a steadily increasing tendency to spend more on his land. The number of rural schools is rapidly increasing and he is of opinion that the spread of rural education is bound to have a most beneficent effect upon the development of Indian agriculture.

The agricultural department is rapidly getting its due recognition both at the hands of the Government and the public. He feels strongly that there should be a large and better organised staff of Researchers and that the foundation for future development should be laid both broad and deep.

He is of opinion that experimental Farms should not be run on a profit and loss basis and that the Researchers should not be handicapped by having to confine themselves to problems of the immediately practical character.

"I am not prepared" says he "to assert categorically that an experimental farm, which shows a profit stands thereby condemned of masquerading under a false name, but I am prepared to assert that if the time of the farm staff and the

land on the farm are devoted, as they should be, to accurate experimental work, such a farm cannot be worked at a profit. The desire of the general public to see the results of experiments rather than the processes by which those results are obtained is a natural one. It should be satisfied by the only rational method, namely demonstration on special farms or on the fields of cultivators. An experimental farm should be looked upon as an out-door laboratory, not as a model for demonstration."

We publish with great pleasure the following extract from G. O. No. 235 P. dated 12-5-17. The credit goes to our Principal for the effective precautionary measures.

The Agri-
cultural
College
and plague.

"An instance of the protection afforded to a once infected place by stringent precautions with regard to the importation of all grains and food stuffs is to be found at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore which has remained free during the year and although plague has existed all round the place this locality has escaped."

The 1918 Year Book of the Madras Agricultural is out and is a fairly bulky volume running to nearly 150 pages with a large number of illustrations. It is priced Re. 1 and annas 2 and contains valuable reading matter.

The 1918
Year Book.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture V and VII circles has shifted his head quarters to Coimbatore under orders of Government and his office is located in one of the rooms in the main college building.

Change of
Head
quarters.

We regret the great delay caused in the issue of our *Journal* on account of Influenza both among *Ourselves.* the Editorial and the Press Staff. It was inevitable and the best is being done to make up for the delay.

Obituary.

We very much regret to record the death due to Influenza of three of our junior members, two in the moffusil and one in the College estate.

A. Mariasusai joined the college in 1915 and passed out in 1917 with the certificate of proficiency. He was considered one of the good students of his batch. He was a good amateur actor and people who attended the dramatic performances by the students during 1915 and 1916 college days cannot easily forget him. After passing out he was appointed Assistant Manager at Manganallur. He was there till very recently, when he was taken over for district work in Mayavaram circle. He was not keeping good health and he had come on leave to his home at Coimbatore a few months ago to improve his health. He went back to Mayavaram and there got the attack of Influenza to which he succumbed.

K. Satyanarayana joined the college in 1916 and passed out only last March with the Proficiency certificate. As a student he was considered by all the teachers as one of the best students and a very well behaved young man. He passed first in the certificate examination and won the Clogston prize. Soon after he passed out he was appointed

Assistant Manager at Hagari. He was selected for the higher course but he chose service in the department at once. By his death the department has lost one of its very promising subordinates.

C. K. Venkatasessa Ayyar underwent his training during the years 1915—17 but failed to get the certificate of Proficiency. He was sometime ago taken as a Dairyman in the College Dairy which post he filled till his death. He was a sociable and obliging young man.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

An old man's view about the coconut cultivation of the West coast.

One of the chief Agricultural pursuits of the West Coast which ranks only second in importance to paddy cultivation is coconut planting which is considered so profitable a speculation that the mania for getting possession of reclaimed lands and lands along the river side favourable for the above purpose is ever on the increase; and if it is cultivated on scientific lines the profit will be ten-fold more than under existing arrangements. Those who are interested in the promotion of this branch of industry will do well to pay particular attention to the following few points:—

In the first place great care is taken in the selection of nuts for growing. Only large-scarred nuts of trees that have passed their middle age will be fit for the same and these when they have attained their full maturity, have to be gently let down in baskets and not violently dropped on the hard ground like ordinary nuts but some consider this process rather too troublesome and so they generally