

eat them either in the green or dry condition. For making hay out of this the grass is allowed to mature until it begins to dry and an implement 'Comb' has been devised to remove the heads covered with the spears completely. The leaflet gives details of the construction and working of the comb. The implement can be obtained for Rs. 20 by applying to the superintendent Dharwar Agricultural Station.

K. Ramiah.

Extracts.

PICKLY PEAR FOR PAPER PULP.

From an experiment conducted in Mysore, it would seem that prickly pear might be profitably used for paper pulp if the spines and massive flesh could be removed by some cheap and easy method. The remaining fibres produced pulp suitable for paper, when mixed with longer-fibred pulp of some other raw material. (The Wealth of India, February 1918).

T. S. V.

INDIAN INDIGO.

One of the most notable war developments of Indian Agriculture has been the revival of the natural indigo industry. With the cessation of supplies of synthetic indigo from Germany, the area under indigo increased from 1,48,400 acres in 1914—15 to 7,56,400 acres in 1916—17. Every effort is being made to give the present revival of the natural dye a permanent character. (The Field, May 4, 1918).

T. S. V.

GOAT'S MILK.

The advantages of using goat's milk are:—(1) that the goat eats about one-sixth the quantity of food required by a milch cow; (2) that for nine or ten months it yields 3 to 5 litres of milk which can be safely taken uncooked; because (3) goats are very

seldom affected by tuberculosis; and (4) that the fat in the milk, being in very fine emulsion, is easily digested. (The Wealth of India, February 1918). T. S. V.

THE WORLD'S CLIMATE.

More than one independent line of argument will be found to point to the conclusion that in a period of 2,000 years there has been no appreciable change of climate in the world. Therefore the balance of the heat exchanges between the earth's income from the solar radiation, and its expenditure in terrestrial radiation in space, may be regarded as only fluctuating between narrow limits. (Nature, May 2, 1918). T. S. V.

STORING SEED COCONUTS.

The tropical Agriculturist, March 1918, refers to experiments made in Ceylon on the preservation of coconuts by storing them under different conditions. These experiments showed that nuts in the husk stored in the open, lost their water in nine months, and all germinated between the seventh and ninth month. Nuts, however, stored under shade in a dry place, lost their water in six months, and were all sound at the end of twelve months. It is pointed out that in storing nuts care must be taken that no heating takes place by over-heaping, and that the husks should be perfectly dry before storing. (The Agricultural News, 15th June, 1918).

T. S. V.

THE ESTATE WRITERS' CLASS AT COIMBATORE.

On several estates the Writers who took the special class at Coimbatore early in the year were seen at work with their pest gangs and the benefits of the class were very apparent. In several cases the estate managers expressed their satisfaction and said the training received had "saved hundreds of rupees." The class of work being done under the control and supervision of these men showed a high order of merit and as more are trained I feel

confident that the experiment is going to prove a great success. A number of candidates are awaiting the new class which will be easily filled. (July report Dy. Director of Agriculture Planting Districts). T S. V.

SUPPLIES FOR MESOPOTAMIA.

Great strides are being made in the Agricultural development of Mesopotamia and India, states a Publicity Board communique, under the influence of the Food-stuffs Committee. Arrangements are in hand for the intensive utilization of waste lands lying alongside railways and canals in India, and much useful work is being done in the control and distribution, between provinces, of civil supplies and of exports from India.

To a student of agriculture, or even to any one who has any knowledge of agriculture, it is evident that Mesopotamia must be developing at a very rapid rate, if a judgment can be based upon the agricultural machinery and supplies which are being sent both from India and England. India is supplying ploughs, pump-sets, harrows, horse rakes, seed-drilling machines in large numbers and also quantities of potatoes, peas, oats and grass seed. All these are being produced in India, so that the development of Mesopotamia is very favourably affecting Indian industries, manufactures, and agriculture. England is sending Bamford mills, chaffcutters, engines, mowers, refrigerating machines, separators, incubators, and foster mothers, and other things which it has been found impossible to obtain from India.

The efforts of Mesopotamian authorities are not confined solely to the production of grain, but are also developing the dairy and poultry branches of agricultural life. India is supplying draught oxen in large numbers, whilst the Arab cultivator is being encouraged in the matter of transport and seed facilities. (From the Hindu). T. S. V.
