

evidence) survive, and the death of the remaining 50 per cent is, I believe, mainly brought about by insect and perhaps also fungal attack.

"It will be seen that I should account for the subsequent death of lightning-struck trees in the main to insect and fungal attack following on local injury caused to the cambium and I can find nothing to confirm any theory which would attribute subsequent deaths to the belated but direct effects of the lightning."

T. F. C.

Castor Oil Plant Diseases.

The ever recurrent discussion as to the practicability of planting Castor Oil Plant as a first class crop in Malaya makes one keep a look out of enemies that the plant has encountered in other countries. The Tropical Agriculturist Vol. LIV, No. 3, contains the following quotation from the Journal of Mysore Agric. and Exp. Union Vol. I, No. 2,

"To the already considerable list of natural host plants of *Bacterium Solanacearum* (brown-rot of Solanaceae) must now be added the castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*), which has been seriously attacked by the disease in various localities of Georgia and Florida,

"The *Ricinus* plants wilt in various stages of growth, and often at an early one. Dwarfing is usually the first sign of the disease in the seedling plants.

"Land on which any of the common Solanaceous plants have wilted should not be planted to *Ricinus*, unless it is known positively that the wilt was not of bacterial origin."

T. F. C.

Manuring of Rice.

The Agricultural Journal of Egypt, Vol. IX, contains an interesting note on the effect of nitrate of soda as a fertiliser for rice. Four plots manured with 85 kilos of nitrate of soda gave a return of 15010 rotls as compared with 12693 rotls from four untreated control plots.

T. F. C.

Vegetable Oil and Palm Products Industry,

The following notice appearing in Tropical Life March, 1920, may prove of interest to those contemplating planting the Oil Palm in Malaya.

It has been proposed that an Association be formed to advance and safeguard the Vegetable Oil Palm Products Industry.