

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 sommon 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.

"It is not to be carried on for the purposes of trade, but to safeguard and advance the interests of the trade generally in such manner as the members of the association shall think best. No details have been gone into at present, and whether the official headquarters will be in London, elsewhere in the U. K., or at some centre abroad has yet to be decided. We should, however, be glad to have our readers' opinion on this point. In any case London would be headquarters for the receipt, collection, and distribution of news, likely to be of interest to members who would, as time went on, decide what the nature of that news would be. It is suggested that at first the subscription be \$10 American gold, or its equivalent in other currencies.

"The publishers and proprietors of *Tropical Life* are willing to include a supplement, especially devoted to the interests of the International Association, as and when desired, whether monthly or otherwise, and then, on terms to be agreed, copies will be sent to all members.

"We hope to hear from those, interested in vegetable oils, palm products, etc., whether the idea appeals to them and if so shall be glad if they will state in writing their willingness to become members and help the Association to be a benefit to the vegetable oil world generally, whether as producers, transporters manufacturers, distributors or consumers."

T. F. C.

Fruit Cultivation.

The steadily rising prices in the cost of locally grown fruit seem to be due not only to a demand from an ever increasing population but also to the common destruction of orchards either for substitution of rubber as a better paying crop, or where the orchards have been planted around towns, to make way for the still more pressing demand of land for building. These factors are contributing largely and rapidly to a shortage of locally grown fruits and high prices, and many are consequently turning their minds to plant sufficient fruit trees to provide a supply of fruit for themselves and their labour force. To those contemplating planting Citrus fruits two articles that have lately appeared should prove of interest. "The Possibilities of Citrus Culture in South India," in the *Tropical Agriculturist*, February 1920, considers the type of soil and the best varieties to plant. "Notes on Citrus Culture," in the *Queensland Agricultural Journal*, February 1920, treats of the management and working of Citrus orchards. Both articles are well worth perusing.

T. F. C.