

"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.

Cola nitida at Singapore.

In the Gardens' Bulletin, Vol. II, No. 3, some data regarding the yield of trees of *Cola nitida* cultivated in the Economic Gardens, Singapore, were given. Mr. Mathieu recently had some of the trees manured, and one fruit just matured weighs 1 lb. and contains six fully developed seeds, it measures 6 in. in length and $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. in circumference. This is a considerable advance on those hitherto recorded, and is to be attributed to the effects of manuring.

T. F. C.

Botanic Gardens.

The following extract from the "Agricultural News" February 7th, 1920, is reprinted from the Trinidad Guardian 1919, on the occasion of the centenary of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Trinidad. "The Trinidad Royal Botanic Gardens at St. Ann's Port-of-Spain have this year entered upon the second century of unbroken existence. There are very few Botanic Gardens in the British Dominions over seas which can boast of so long a life. Some were founded before these, it is true, but for one reason or another they were abandoned or allowed to fall into decay, to be revived in some cases at a later date when their value was once more appreciated. The Garden of St. Vincent is a noteworthy example, because it was the first of the British tropical gardens, and was drawn upon to start the Trinidad Garden. It was abandoned after some sixty years of activity, and was re-established after a resting period of about another sixty years. Jamaica founded the Bath Garden in 1774 eight years after the St. Vincent one: this was also subsequently abandoned, and restored to some extent. In the East the Garden at Penang in the Straits Settlements was started in 1800; but had a chequered history, being abandoned and restored more than once. The present Singapore Garden dates from 1878.

"Two Gardens which have already reached 100 years are Calcutta, founded in 1786, and Sydney, New South Wales, 1816. Peradeniya, Ceylon, the successor of earlier gardens in the low country will reach its century in 1921. Botanic Gardens are, however, not comparatively new developments. In Europe the old monastic institutions maintained gardens to provide pulses, vegetables, fruits, etc., and also medicinal plants.

"The Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew, to which the Colonies owe so much not only for the plants but also for the trained men it has distributed, arose as a Physic Garden. Fostered by George III and Sir Joseph Banks, Kew rapidly grew in importance as a centre of botanical activity."