

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."