

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1946

Around the middle of this month we carried out the Mid-Year Examinations. Much attention has been given this year to developing a uniform system of grading, and a method equalizing differences in level among the various groups. This latter point has been given much study by Mr. Arnold, who is familiar with techniques used in the United States.

On the whole, we were very well satisfied with the results of the examinations, which we believe were better organized than they have ever been previously. We had to drop two of our third year students, however, both of them Guatemalans. These boys had always been among the weakest in their class, and we were now up against the necessity of dropping them at Mid-Year or else carrying them through to graduation. It is the feeling of the entire staff that we must protect the future prestige of the school and that of the good students by refusing to grant diplomas to any boys who have failed to do satisfactory work.

We also dropped at Mid-Year one Honduran student, who had failed to show sufficient interest in his work and whose classroom record was unsatisfactory. One Costa Rican student was dropped because he had in recent months developed a case of syphilis.

Applications for 1947 scholarships are coming in at the rate of 5 to 10 per week. There are now 52 in hand from Costa Rica alone. This republic has always shown great interest in the school, which has become well known to the people through many visits made to Zamorano by prominent citizens. We are also receiving many applications from El Salvador. So far, very few from Panama and Nicaragua.

Among interesting visitors of the month were the following: Ing. Pompilio Ortega, who has recently been appointed Director General of Agriculture at Tegucigalpa. We believe we can be of considerable assistance to him in his new post. For the past twenty years don Pompilio has been operating a small farm school at his home in Coyocutena, north of Comayagua. He was accompanied, this first visit to the school, by don Raúl Zaldívar, director of the Escuela Normal Rural at Tencontin, and several members of the staff of the Inter American Education Foundation. Mr. Stephen Wright, who has been Director of the Lincoln School in San José, Costa Rica, came with Mrs. Wright, and was much interested in our training program. Toward the end of the month, Mr. H. B. Griswold, president of the California Avocado Society, stayed with us two days, during which time they were taken to the top of Uyuca mountain by Dr. Williams and Mr. Popenoe, to see avocados growing in the wild. Dr. Guy Aycock and Mr. F. J. Aycock of Louisiana came with Mr. John Richardson of the Tela Railroad Co.

Paul J. Shank, for many years with the U. S. Forest Service, joined the staff to teach forestry to our students and to cooperate with the Research Department of the United Fruit Company in a long-range program of forest management and forest conservation, which it is hoped will eventually lend assistance to several of the Central American countries. Mr. Shank was accompanied by his family, consisting of Mrs. Shank and three children.