

CEIBA

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F O R E W O R D

AS EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS become established it is customary for them to sponsor the publication of technical serials in which may appear some or all of the scientific papers prepared by their staff members, particularly those which appertain to the general region in which the institution is located. At the same time, papers from outside individuals who may be working on associated problems, may be considered, especially in those cases where the institution itself served as a center for field work. It is particularly true that field work in the biological and earth sciences, unless followed up by publication of the results obtained, is of little avail. In other words the establishment of this serial is a contribution to that desirable end that the results of local researches be published for the benefit of all concerned.

Up to the present time the number of technical periodicals issued in Latin America, particularly in Central America, is not great but some of them have a long and honorable history. Now the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, established in 1942, enters this field, the need being felt for an official publication, which, in its way, will serve to make the institution known to an increasingly wider public. Its field will be the Central American Republics, but due consideration will be given to technical papers in the broad field of biology and associated subjects appertaining to all those parts of Latin America which the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana serves.

The Escuela Agrícola Panamericana thus undertakes the sponsorship of a technical magazine, to be known as CEIBA, to appear at intervals as material worthy of publication becomes available. For ease and simplicity in citation, the above one-word title has been selected but the longer subtitle: "A Scientific Journal issued by the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana" renders proper credit to its sponsoring institution. It is expected that the individual volumes, as completed, will average about five hundred pages. It is our hope and conviction that through this new serial the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana will render valuable services to science, particularly in those countries which it serves, and to the increasingly large public that is interested in scientific problems. It is perhaps a trite saying that science is basic to modern agriculture. Certain it is, however, that the more we know about a particular region, in all fields, the better equipped we are to render understanding services to the practical agriculturists, *Elmer D. Merrill, member of the board of directors, Escuela Agrícola Panamericana.*