



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 1953. The addition of Frank Carrico to our staff (reported in our last News Letter) has made it possible for us to watch more closely, from month to month, the classroom work of our students. Dr Williams and Mr Carrico have been comparing, from time to time, classroom records with the grades made in our entrance examination, the "Examen de Capacidad", which to all intents and purposes is an intelligence test. This consists of 75 questions, and in the past we have considered that an applicant must give at least 45 correct answers if he is to be accepted. We are beginning to feel that it would be better to raise the minimum to 50. Most students who fall below this are unable to do satisfactory classroom work, though there are, of course, exceptions. The most interesting feature of the recent comparison of grades in the Examen de Capacidad and in classroom work, however, is this: Quite a few students who were above 60 in Capacidad are failing in one or more classroom subjects. This in most cases shows a lack of interest, and such boys are being urged to do better; or if they are really not interested, to go home, thus permitting us to take other students who will make better use of their opportunity.

Our request through the News Letter for comments on its contents have brought forth a number of replies. The Dean of an agricultural college in the southwestern United States writes: "For goodness sake, do not let anybody persuade you to change the contents of your News Letters. I find them very interesting, and others with whom I have discussed them are of the same opinion. I am afraid that any attempt to change them would only tend to lessen their value." Another prominent recipient writes: "It would be of interest to include comments and suggestions from visitors who are qualified to make them." This we shall try to do - in the past we have usually limited ourselves to listing the principal visitors of the month. The Associate Dean of a college of agriculture in the southern United States makes these comments: "Because of the broad field of interest which occupies the time of your readers, it would hardly seem possible that a uniform type of reporting could be attained. I personally enjoy every one of the Letters and wholeheartedly endorse your policy of reporting on students, visitors to the school, and achievements of the various projects such as dairying, poultry, and swine production. If I may express a preference, it would be that you give as much space as seems feasible to include where your graduates find employment, are they distinguishing themselves in the countries and communities where they take up their residence after graduation, what is their social life on the campus in terms of developing leadership talents, and so on."

We reproduce the above comments because we feel sure they will be of interest to those who are preparing News Letters in other Latin American schools - and as we have mentioned previously, we have noted that the number of such Letters is increasing. For ourselves, we can say that we believe the suggestions are valuable.

There were very few visitors during September. As we have mentioned previously, if we plotted a curve based on visitors who come between October and April, it would show a high positive correlation with those charts gotten out by the Biological Survey covering the lives of migratory birds.