



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JUNE 1954. The school year commenced on Monday the 7th. The Class of 1957 is composed of the following number of students from the countries mentioned: Mexico 1 - a boy from the Island of Cozumel, off the coast of Yucatán, recommended by the Maryknoll missionaries. Guatemala 6; El Salvador 11 - chosen from a large group of applicants. Honduras 16 - a slightly larger number than usual, but the demand for our graduates in this country is keen. Nicaragua 9 - another country which wants more agricultural help. Costa Rica 8; Panama 3 - we rarely get enough qualified applicants from Panama to fill our quota. Colombia 6 - it is always easy to get enough Colombians. Ecuador 8 - a larger number than usual, because of increasing interest. Cuba only 2 this year, and one from Peru who showed up at the last minute.

Our staff has been materially strengthened by the arrival of Dr. M. J. Dijkman who has taken over the Department of Agronomy, replacing Prof. Luis E. Morcillo, who (as announced in our last) has gone to Michigan State College on a Rockefeller fellowship. Dr. Dijkman, born in Java, and formerly a citizen of the Netherlands, now of the United States, was educated at the University of Utrecht. He later spent ten years working as a technical agriculturist in the Dutch East Indies, then moved to Florida where he taught applied botany at the University of Miami. It is believed that his experience in the East Indies, where scientific agriculture has reached a high level, will be of much value here in tropical America.

For several years we have been hearing about Red Sindhi cattle - a dairy breed from India, hence promising for the American tropics. The United States government imported animals of this breed and crossed them with Jerseys. The Honduran government obtained a young bull, half Red Sindhi and half Jersey, which it has now placed at the school, where we have cows of three-quarters Jersey blood and in the shortest possible time can produce animals which may serve to indicate the value of Red Sindhi blood in this part of the world. We deeply appreciate the cooperation of Ing. Benjamín Membreño, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. W. B. Pace, Director of STICA, in this connection.

It has been raining all month: a total of 16 inches. Only one day with nothing to measure in the rain gauge. However, this has not prevented the arrival of numerous interesting visitors. Our friend Dr. C. A. Schroeder of the College of Agriculture, University of California at Los Angeles, spent several days here after a trip through Mexico, going over our collection of avocado varieties. Dr. Floyd S. Shuttleworth of the University of Miami, Florida, came to spend a week with his colleague Dr. Dijkman. Brigham Arnold and Carl Johannessen of the University of California came to use our library and study botanical and geographical features of this region. Carlos L. Arias of Costa Rica stopped off here on his way home, after spending a year with the Rockefeller Foundation in Mexico. That organization certainly gets hold of good trainees. Prof. R. E. Caldwell of the College of Agriculture, University of Florida, came to spend his summer vacation familiarizing himself with tropical soils in situ. He is teaching a course in that subject at Gainesville, planned primarily for the benefit of students from Latin America. Another example of the cooperation Florida is giving this part of the world.