

Mid-year examinations were held from October 6th to 10th. As usual, the subjects which proved most difficult for the students were mathematics and the physical sciences - chemistry and physics. Most of the boys make satisfactory progress in English; but there are always a few who are weak in this subject and remain so throughout the entire three years. This, we believe, is normal. The subjects in which the boys generally do best are animal husbandry and tropical crops. This is perhaps due to the fact that there is more relationship here, between what they learn in the classroom and what they are doing daily in the field. Out of 68 boys in the first year class, there are only four whose work has been so poor, up to date, that it may be necessary to drop them at the end of the year; and these four have been encouraged to make greater efforts during the second semester.

Construction work continued on a small scale. Quarters for the young assistants, constructed in the building originally intended for a general garage, were completed and placed in service. At one side of the vegetable garden we have built a stone-lined compost pit, 4 x 8 x 1 meters in size, where we will carry out controlled production of compost on an experimental basis, using the Indore method. Work was commenced on a small building for the goat dairy, in the pasture above the vegetable area. A small building is under construction near the Bodega, for storage of gasoline and lubricating oils.

Pastures continued in excellent condition, due to the favorable distribution of rainfall this year. Total for the period is 38 inches. One half-breed Holstein bull calf and three pure-bred Hampshire pigs were sold locally for breeding purposes, and the proceeds credited to the Students' Benefit Fund. Fields from which corn and sorghum were harvested last month for ensilage were replanted to leguminous crops for soil improvement.

In the horticultural department, interest during the month has centered largely around nursery work. Large numbers of citrus stock-plants and roses are ready for budding. Mangos and avocados will soon be ready. With nearly all students, this is the most popular feature of the department; so much so, that quite a few of the boys devote their time after classes in the afternoon to practicing budding and grafting. We emphasize the fact that much practice is required by showing the boys the results obtained by different individuals; some of them obtain as high as 90% of "takes", while others have not obtained, to date, more than 10 or 15%.

The pineapple planting was enlarged by about 2000 plants, mainly of the variety Red Spanish. Rice beans (Phaseolus calcaratus) have proved to be an excellent cover crop in the new avocado orchard. A shipment of Derris cuttings, consisting of Goodyear clones, was sent to Experimental Plantations, Inc., for trial in Guatemala.

Among interesting visitors of the month were the new Minister of Denmark in Central America, who was accompanied by the Subjefe de Protocolo, government of Honduras; Sr. C. Puyo Delgado, a journalist from Colombia; and Dr. Frederick L. Wellman, of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, now on loan to the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences at Turrialba,