



### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 1957. Quite a few people who receive our News Letter are interested in what it costs to operate Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, and more particularly what it costs to clothe a student, to feed him, and so on. We are therefore following our custom of presenting a resumé of the figures for 1956, with those of 1954 and 1955 for comparison.

Our total operating cost for the year was \$334,000, as against \$316,000 in 1955 and \$273,000 in 1954. Normal increases in salaries and wages are major factors in this picture; there have been no significant changes in the number of people employed.

To ascertain maintenance costs per student per year, we take the number of students on the campus at the end of each month, and then compute the average number for the year. In 1956 it was 162; in 1955 it was 153, and in 1954 it was 155. On this basis, the total cost per student in 1956 was \$2062, in 1955 it was \$2067, and in 1954 it was \$1765.

To clothe a student (and we provide all the clothing he uses, including shoes) cost \$69 in 1956, as against \$63 in 1955 and \$62 in 1954. This figure certainly does not reflect a significant rise in the cost of khaki pants and shirts, blue denim pants and shirts, underwear, and shoes. To wash a student's clothes, and his bed linen and towels, cost \$42 in 1956, as against \$39 in 1955 and \$36 in 1954.

To feed a student cost us 16 cents per meal in 1956. In 1955 it cost half a cent more, while in 1954 it cost one cent more. In view of the rising cost of foodstuffs these figures require some explanation. Coffee and several other items we must purchase have gone up substantially in price. On the other hand, we have produced more of the foods we consume, the cost of which - for example, poultry and eggs - is not reflected in the cost per meal but shows up in the cost of operating the livestock department. Even taking all such things into account, the cost per meal - which includes all kitchen help - shows how far a school like this can go in producing its own foodstuffs.

Medical and dental attention, plus sanitation of school property, cost \$57 per student in 1956, as against \$60 in 1955 and \$48 in 1954. We maintain a physician in residence at the school; a dentist comes out from Tegucigalpa every second Saturday; and we have men maintaining sanitation on the campus under the direction of our Professor of Biology.

In 1956 we butchered 179 hogs raised by the students against 86 in 1955 and 60 in 1954 - an increase made possible by the excellent work of Professor Rodolfo Zamora, who was also responsible for the production of 271,000 quarts of milk as against 270,000 in 1955 and 263,000 in 1954. Production has been maintained, most of the time, between 24 and 26 lbs per cow per day. Professor Julio Pineda reports 80,000 eggs in 1956 against 136,000 in 1955 and 93,000 in 1954. We cut down the flock a bit last year; the boys complained they were tired of eating eggs. Students working under the direction of Professor Guillermo Herrera made 7000 lbs of butter and 8500 lbs of cheese, while others working with Professor Walter Fick butchered 273 steers during the year. The agronomy department produced plenty of raw sugar, almost enough rice to meet our needs, yuca and sweet potatoes and limited quantities of other crops, in connection with all of which Professor Roberto García did a good job. The horticultural department, under Professor Mario Jalil and Professor Eduardo Jiménez, kept us supplied with numerous fruits and vegetables.