



MARCH 1950. In accordance with the custom established a few years ago we began receiving new students early this month. By April first 35 had arrived and were at work in the horticultural department, where they are having an opportunity to find out if they are going to like the sort of life they have to lead here. On our side, it gives us an opportunity to size them up individually and perhaps drop a few before they have actually commenced the school year, which does not start until the first Monday in June. For the first time, we are giving all new arrivals an "Examen de Capacidad" which was developed here by Dr Herbert Popenoe. This is an intelligence test based upon a careful study of last year's student body, and we believe it is proving extremely useful. When the test was applied to the first-year class in August 1949, five boys failed to make satisfactory grades; and these same five failed in all or nearly all subjects in the mid-year and final examinations.

A shipment of fruit trees and berry plants was received from California by air express and planted on Uyuca. Budwood of nineteen avocado varieties was sent to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and of thirteen varieties to the Subtropical Experiment Station at Homestead, Florida. These varieties were some of the hybrids from Atlixco, Mexico, collected in 1947 and 1948. One variety (No. 13520) has shown such promise that it has been given the name "Aztec" and published in accordance with accepted pomological procedure.

The onion variety trials inaugurated by Prof. John H. MacGillivray of the University of California during his stay here last summer have been completed. Results have been studied by student Mario Jalil who concludes that Excel has given the best results. We are therefore expanding our plantings of this variety. In connection with experimental work on truck crops the following notes on our climatic conditions based upon a study of our meteorological records by Professor MacGillivray are of interest: the lowest mean monthly temperature is 69.5 degrees F. (January) and the highest is 76.5 degrees (May). With regard to relative humidity the range in monthly averages at 6 a.m. is 84% (April) to 96% (September), and at 2 p.m. is 40% (April) and 65% (July). The elevation is 2600 feet and the average yearly rainfall 44.2 inches. The dry season is December to April inclusive.

Romeo P. Martínez of Davao City, Philippine Islands, who is making a study of tobacco cultivation in tropical America under a grant from the United Nations, spent a few days here around the 11th. of the month. Dr Stringfellow Barr, president of St. John's College at Annapolis, Maryland, came for an overnight stay on the 22nd, accompanied by Mrs Barr. Around the 24th we had the pleasure of a visit of several days from Gove Hambridge, formerly of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, now with the FAO, United Nations. Mr. Hambridge was largely responsible for the remarkable series of Yearbooks which have been issued by the Department of Agriculture since 1936. During the last week of the month we had with us Mr and Mrs T. W. Dunn of the Chiriqui Land Co., Puerto Armuelles, Panama. Mr Dunn was formerly Business Manager of this school. On the 24th we were honored by a visit from the Ambassador of Guatemala and the Ambassador of Costa Rica, who were accompanied by Sr Oscar Barahona Streber of Guatemala.