



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA  
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

FEBRUARY 1950. We celebrated our fifth Commencement on the 25th, when diplomas were handed to 48 students from 9 countries, as follows: Guatemala 7, El Salvador 3, Honduras 14, Nicaragua 3, Costa Rica 5, Panama 5, Colombia 6, Cuba 2, and the Dominican Republic 3. The graduation exercises were attended by the largest group of visitors we have had since the inauguration of Zemurray Hall in 1944, - between 400 and 500 people. The President of Honduras, Dr. Juan Manuel Galvez, made the principal speech of the day, in which he emphasized the value of this School in the development of better international relations and said that it has been fruitful in the production of useful citizens. Doris Stone spoke on behalf of the Board of Regents and the Colombian student Jesus Tovar Gomez delivered the valedictory oration.

Three years ago the Rockefeller Foundation gave us \$7500 to be used in sending graduates of this school abroad for one year of advanced training. With this sum we were able to give five scholarships. This year the Foundation has provided "up to \$15,000 to Escuela Agrícola Panamericana for scholarships to permit outstanding members of its graduating classes to gain practical experience with The Rockefeller Foundation's agricultural program in Mexico, or to study in agricultural colleges in the United States. This grant is available during a four-year period beginning approximately July 1 1950." It is understood that selection of recipients will be made by the staff of Escuela Agrícola Panamericana and that not more than three awards will be made in any one year. Dr Harry M. Miller Jr., Associate Director, The Natural Sciences, who was instrumental in securing this grant, was present at this graduation, and met the three members of the Class of 1950 who have been chosen to receive scholarships this year. They are Humberto Alvarez of Panama, Rodolfo Zamora of Costa Rica, and Baldwin Jackson of Honduras.

Dr Gabriel Gutiérrez, botanist at the College of Agriculture in Medellín, Colombia, paid us a short visit early in the month. Mr R. W. Hudgens of the American International Association spent two days here discussing the program of his organization (Nelson Rockefeller's group). Dr. Elmer D. Merrill, dean of American botanists and a member of our Board of Directors, came on the 10th and spent the rest of the month working in our herbarium with Dr. Williams. The recently-retired Dean of the Florida State College of Agriculture, H. Harold Hume, who has been one of the outstanding figures in the world of subtropical horticulture for many years, came on the 11th, accompanied by Dean Knowles Ryerson of the California State College of Agriculture at Davis. Mr. Edward Bowditch of New York City stayed overnight on the 13th. Robert C. Moncure, one of the North American technicians attached to the Instituto Agropecuario Nacional at Guatemala City, spent two days with us around the 14th. Dr Alfred V. Kidder of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Allen of the United Fruit Company were here at the end of the month.

Graduation over, and the boys dispatched to their homes with their diplomas and class rings, we are now commencing to work through some 500 applications for new scholarships. We shall be able to receive at least 65 new students this year.