

Monthly NEWS LETTER

MARCH 1949. Much of our time this month has been devoted to the selection of new students. Some of this work has to be done at long range, in which case we depend upon an investigation of the boy's background, his educational preparation, and the recommendations of people whom we can trust. By the end of the month we had lined up about sixty applicants and sent them instructions to report for medical examination. We believe this year's Guatemalan applicants look more promising than in any previous year. As usual, we had a very large number of applications from El Salvador; some half dozen Salvadoranean boys showed up on the campus without waiting to be accepted, and asked to be given a chance to show what they could do. One of them rode horseback from his home near San Miguel. A Honduran applicant from Choluteca, whom we had turned down, showed up here a few days later. "Didn't you get our letter, saying we could not take you?" we asked him. "Yes, he replied, "that is precisely why I have come. I want you to try me out." Nicaraguan officials who were here for the recent graduation found that we have relatively few students from their country, and on their return home publicised the school extensively, with the result that we have, for the first time, a large number of Nicaraguan applications from which to choose. Carlos Herrero of our staff, who is on vacation in Costa Rica, has cooperated with Mrs Doris Stone in choosing the new students from that country. Five or six boys are coming from Panama and about the same number from Colombia. Three will come from Cuba and three from the Dominican Republic.

During the month the students have made about 5000 lbs of panela or crude sugar. We are this year eliminating the Criolla variety of cane and limiting our plantings almost wholly to Mayagüez 28, which has been the most successful, under our conditions, of some 20 varieties tested. The POJ varieties have not proved at all satisfactory here.

The goat dairy is now attracting much attention, as 26 kids have been born recently, with more to come. While the Nubians seem somewhat better adapted to this climate than the Toggenburgs, the best does of the former breed are only producing 2 to 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ liters of milk per day, while some of the Toggenburgs are producing 3 liters.

Five Costa Rican normal school graduates came in early March for three months' intensive training, after which they will go home to work for STICA among small farmers. Mornings they work along with our own boys in Horticulture, field crops, and animal husbandry; in the afternoons we are giving them classroom work in soils and fertilizers, horticultural and field crops, dairying, and the raising of pigs and chickens. All of these young men have taken hold well and are enthusiastic over their work.

Mr. Edward Anthony, owner of Woman's Home Companion, and Mr. Earl J. Johnson of the United Press, accompanied by their wives, visited the school overnight in early March. Dr Irving Bailey and Dr Karl Sax of Harvard University were here on the 7th and 8th. Dr H. M. Miller Jr., Associate Director of Natural Sciences, The Rockefeller Foundation, spent four days with us, discussing many educational problems of mutual interest. Mr Arthur Nicholson, Secretary of the United Fruit Co., accompanied by Mrs Nicholson, stayed overnight on the 13th. Dr Jaime Marchena from the Dominican Republic paid us a short visit on the 16th. Mr Horace Belshaw, Director of Rural Welfare for the FAO, was a welcome visitor on the 19th, Mrs Josefa Hardin of Puerto Rico, now in charge of Home Management Work for the STICA in Costa Rica, came on the 25th for an overnight stay, as did Mrs Luis Quintanilla of Mexico on the 26th.