

advances. To quote a memorandum by the Director on this subject: "A worker engaged in pure research may at any moment recognize that a discovery he has made has important practical applications, while similarly a worker engaged in the immediate application of scientific knowledge to agriculture may make and record an observation which is destined to be the origin of an important advance in our knowledge of pure science."

#### THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE, TRINIDAD.

In 1922, shortly before the College was formally opened, the Corporation decided to contribute £500 a year for two years to this important institution, where it was proposed to give a special training to those who intended to take up tropical agriculture, either as planters or as members of an agricultural department. The Corporation foresaw that the men to whom they gave post-graduate training could with great advantage be sent for at least one year to the College, and they asked the governing body whether, if they accepted this contribution, they would take the Corporation's students without fees, and would give the Corporation representation on the governing body. The offer was gladly accepted, and the Director was nominated as the representative of the Corporation.

The first student of the Corporation went to the Imperial College in 1923, and since that date it has been customary, with a few special exceptions, for all senior students to spend their year's training in Trinidad.

In 1924 Sir Francis Watts, the first Principal, to whose foresight and energy the College owed so much, was succeeded by Dr. Martin Leake. In that year, in addition to their annual contribution, the Corporation made a special grant of £2,000 in view of the important part in tropical agriculture which was being played by the College. Not only were the Corporation's students being trained there, but the Colonial Office, which had just inaugurated a similar scheme of training for cadets of the various agricultural departments, decided to send them also to the College for a year.

During all this period the College was much hampered by lack of funds. It was not adequately equipped for its important work, and there was no hostel where the students could live. The Corporation never ceased to press for increased financial support, and in 1926 they learnt with great satisfaction that the Imperial Government had given a grant of £15,000 for a hostel and of £3,000 towards general expenses during the year 1926-27.