

Original Articles.

Cacao Research.

IN the *Revue de Botanique Appliquée* for December, 1925, PITTIER gave details of botanical studies on cacao and came to the conclusion that there were two distinct species of *Theobroma* viz. *T. Cacao*, L. and *T. leiocarpum* Bernoulli and that an infinite number of hybrid forms existed. In fact it was suggested by CHEVALIER in making observations on the notes of PITTIER that the two species had given by hybridization the numerous variations which constitute the cultivated cacao. These notes were followed by others, PITTIER, DUCKE and CHEVALIER in the *Revue de Botanique Appliquée* for June, 1926, and the plate illustrating the transitional stages of hybrids from *Theobroma leiocarpum* to *Theobroma cacao* is of considerable interest. HARLAND in the article which appeared in *Tropical Agriculture* for March, 1925, also stated that a large amount of natural crossing meant that the cacao trees of Trinidad were a set of extremely complex hybrids, whose progeny showed the usual type of Mendelian segregation. These papers were discussed in Ceylon with DR. A. W. HILL, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, during his visit earlier in the year in connection with the selection work with cacao which had been begun on the Experiment Station, Peradeniya, by the late DR. R. H. LOCK.

An examination of the progeny raised from a single selected tree of Forastero cacao was made by the late MR. H. L. VAN BUUREN, Assistant to the Economic Botanist, in 1919 and 1920, but at the time of his death the work was not completed. It was impossible to assign the duty of completing the investigation to any other officer. It is thought, however, that the following details taken from the notes made by MR. VAN BUUREN will be of sufficient interest, particularly as steps are being taken to commence a comprehensive scheme for cacao research in Trinidad at an early date.