

Introduction.

The present investigation is a continuation of the work that has been carried out during the past nine years by the Department of Economics under the direction of Professor Shephard. An account of this work up to 1937 is given by Shephard (4).

During the season 1937 - 38 the field investigations carried out by the Department were extended to include two districts, Toco and Moruga, where no work of this kind had previously been done. It will now be possible to see how far the conclusions reached in districts already investigated are applicable to other districts of Trinidad, and moreover, any recommendations that are made will have the extra evidence obtained in these new districts to support them.

This dissertation is confined to observations made in the Moruga district. In the first section a brief account is given of the history and amenities of the locality, considered as a cacao growing area. Section II comprises a detailed comparison of the yielding power of selected fields in the Moruga district with fields selected from other areas of Trinidad. In Section III, certain factors which might be expected to affect the yield of cacao are investigated, the factors selected being; shading, composition of picket, and age.

All the enquiries have been conducted with a view to obtaining information that may be of use to the

planter in attempting to improve his cultivation practices, rather than as a search after minute information, that may be of interest to the research worker, but which is of little value to the practical farmer.