

INTRODUCTION.

During the season, 1927-28, Messrs. Cowan and Leach carried out a yield trial upon a number of varieties of groundnuts, and made a study of their floral mechanism.

In some respects the observations this season - 1928-29 are a continuation of this work. A yield trial however, was not repeated, since before formulating such a complicated and expensive experiment as a yield trial, the need for such a trial, the need for such a trial must first be realised, and this could only come after a study of the varieties in question, in observation plots. The work therefore, this season is perhaps best described as a developmental study of two procumbent varieties of groundnuts with special reference to factors responsible for, and influencing yield.

Much time has been spent in merely acquiring the experience necessary to grow a satisfactory crop of groundnuts - which experience is essential before the general principles of crop improvement can be applied, and those factors, responsible for yield, studied in their correct perspective.

The writer hopes therefore, that the experience gained this year, together with suggestions for future work in the light of this experience, may establish some sort of continuity, enabling results to be more readily obtained in a single season.

It is unfortunate that only two varieties were available for observation, and that both these proved to be procumbent and very similar in habit, there was no time to be lost however at the beginning of the season, waiting for seed. The two lots of seed were purchased locally, - they were probably from St. Vincent.

The work has been conveniently divided into two parts - Part I deals with the general agricultural practise and

general observations in the field.

Part II is devoted to a more detailed study of factors responsible for yield.

Where other work has been quoted the reference may be found in the bibliography p. 39 from the number given in brackets.