

INTRODUCTION.

Citrus growing in Trinidad is a comparatively young industry, the oldest orchards being scarcely twenty years old and the great majority still under ten years of age. As a result, the problems concerning this crop are newer and have not received the attention and study of those of such old established crops as cocoa, sugar cane and bananas.

The orange and grapefruit, especially the former, have long been cultivated crops of the temperate and sub-tropic regions being grown largely in the Mediterranean countries, Florida and California in North America and in South Africa. In many of these areas they are grown under irrigation conditions and may be subject to periods of frost.

In comparison, conditions in Trinidad are very different. Not only are temperatures much higher but also, all water requirements are met by natural rainfall.

As a result, when attempts were being made to establish grapefruit orchards in Trinidad, the practices adopted in other countries were not always successful and needed modification. Besides normal research on new problems, many of the problems of propagation, disease etc. solved elsewhere, had to be worked out anew for the particular environment and conditions.

The work which has been done at the Imperial College will now be considered under the following headings -

- (1) Vegetative propagation.
- (2) Seedlessness.
- (3) Diseases and their control.
- (4) Chemical investigations.
- (5) Storage technique and problems.