

INVESTIGATIONS INTO CULTURAL PRACTICES, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO WEED CONTROL.

INTRODUCTION.

The humid tropics are well known for the luxuriance of their vegetable growth, this occurring under agricultural conditions as well as naturally. It is only to be expected, that on this account, any crop sown will sooner or later have to compete with extraneous vegetation that naturally encroaches upon the fields with the passage of time. As in temperate countries, the planter or peasant proprietor in the tropics is constantly engaged in suppressing this unwanted growth and a considerable amount of his energy is used in this direction.

It was with the object of finding exactly how possible it was to limit this growth, generally called weeds, that the investigations submitted in this paper were designed, owing to the scarcity of any data on the subject under tropical conditions. A large amount of work has been done in the past on the control of weeds in temperate countries, and the practical outcome of this has been the common rotations as practised in England, such as the Norfolk four course rotation. In the tropics, a rotation is not generally the case under estate conditions, the land being put down to a single crop, such as cacao, coffee, tea, sugar-cane and the like, but, when one considers the indigenous native, it is found that he farms on lines similar to arable farming at home, with a diversity of crops, and weeds constitute a serious nuisance on his establishment.