

## INTRODUCTION.

Chlorotic streak disease was first described as a disease of sugar cane from Java in 1928. Wilbrink, who recorded it there, named it "Fourth Disease." In the following year it was discovered in Hawaii by J. P. Martin (13) who found it on several varieties and renamed the disease "Chlorotic streak." Since then it has spread to most cane-growing areas of the world, including Australia and the United States, where it was first noticed in Louisiana in 1937 (1). In the two latter countries considerable damage has resulted and losses in yield of 15 to 20% have been estimated in Louisiana (9), and up to 50% in Queensland. (8,16).

The disease was first recognised in Trinidad in 1950 by P. O. Wiehe, and by that time it had already spread widely in the island. It still appears to be spreading fairly rapidly, though so far it seems to be doing little damage. It is wise, however, to investigate its spread and means of control in this country in order to avert a serious outbreak, or, should an outbreak occur, to stamp it out rapidly. Chlorotic streak was found in British Guiana (21) about the same time as in Trinidad and is already reaching dangerous proportions there and causing considerable economic loss. Rather belated investigations are being started there in an attempt to check the spread. Experiments are already under way in Trinidad which should succeed in an early control of the disease.

It has not yet been explained how the disease was introduced to the last mentioned countries, for all cane introductions since 1928 have been from Barbados where Chlorotic Streak is unknown.