

I.

INTRODUCTION.

The digestibility trials described in this thesis are in some ways a continuation of the work done by Maule (8) to determine the digestibility of certain fodder grasses fed to stock in Trinidad.

It was however decided instead of continuing with the other fodder grasses, to carry out an experiment to determine the digestibility and nutritive value of one of the chief pasture grasses in Trinidad namely, Savannah grass (*Axonopus compressus*) and also to determine the digestibility and nutritive value of a concentrate food.

The importance of pasture in Trinidad cannot be said to be very great, the bulky part of the ration for cattle on the few dairy farms or on the large sugar estates being supplied almost entirely by cut fodders of which the chief are liba cave, Elephant grass or Para grass, in the wet season and cane tops in the dry season; none of which are pasture grasses. Savannah grass comprises the main part of the pastures; and although on the large estates these are only used to a minimum extent to supply fodder or grazing, and often only as a means of exercise, yet there are many cattle owned by peasant proprietors whose sole maintenance consists of rough grazing on grass cut from the roadside.

For the digestibility trial of a concentrate food-stuff, Coconut Meal was chosen, which, being produced locally, would probably be an important stock feed in the island.