

## INTRODUCTION.

The first record of Cercospora on tobacco was made by Ellis & Everhart in 1893 (5), from material collected in North Carolina. It has since been recorded in most tobacco growing areas, especially in the tropics. It is to be found in E., S. & C. Africa and parts of West Africa, in India, Malaya, China, the Dutch East Indies and has assumed some importance in tropical areas in Australia (9). It is widespread in the West Indies and Northern S. America, and is also found in the tobacco growing states of the U.S.A. The northern limits of the disease are found in Europe, where it is recorded from Italy and Rumania (2). The seriousness of the disease has been overlooked to some extent, but it is at present regarded as causing considerable loss. First reported in Nyasaland in 1923 (16) as a leaf disease of minor importance, it has since been found to cause some depreciation in crop value. In Australia (9), it has been responsible for heavy crop losses, and is now reported from some of the tobacco areas of the United States as being the most serious leaf disease in the field (6). First reported in Trinidad in 1911 (15), the disease was not regarded as serious for some time, but recently has been responsible for considerable damage to the crop grown on the College Farm.