

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The present research was originally planned with a view to studying the factors concerned in the incidence and development of the Cercospora leaf-spot in tobacco. Dr. Britton-Jones was of the opinion that this widespread disease could be controlled to a large extent by raising the leaf-bearing part of the plant out of the immediate vicinity of the soil i.e. by removing the lower leaves and so stilting up the plant.

On these grounds experiments were devised involving joint co-operation between the agricultural and mycological departments. At the time, however, when the treatments fell due the disease had not made an appearance in amount adequate to justify the furtherance of the experiment along these lines, and it was decided to approach the problem from a different point of view i.e. by a series of physiological observations designed to form a basis for a future mycological investigation. Later, owing to a very exceptional period of late rain in February and March the disease appeared in sufficient amount to make possible some additional work in connexion with maturity.

Moreover, at the time when the infection of these experimental strips was almost impalpable, some neighbouring plots under the supervision of Mr. Bridges were very perceptibly attacked. This is almost certainly associated with the different spacing employed.

The following points, therefore, are recommended to the attention of anyone who may follow up this line of work:

- (1) to get the crop in earlier, preferably at the beginning of November,
- (2) to make use of a closer spacing.