

DISCUSSION.

It would be rare indeed to find in the tropics, a peasant holding that does not have its patch of sweet potatoes. The crop is not a spectacular one although the value of it in the locust ridden areas of East Africa and the fact that it has been employed for the production of alcohol and so on, tend more and more to bring the name of sweet potato to the notice of the European public. In the tropics and in the United States the sweet potato needs no introduction, and as in the case of many other peasant crops it is receiving the attention of the agricultural departments of various countries, with a view in some cases to extending cultivation on a large scale and in others to increasing the efficiency of peasant production. Research on Sweet Potato production has been going on in the United States for many years. Numerous pamphlets and books have been produced which aim at not only advising the producer but also at making the general public more potato minded. Hand and Cockerham in "The Sweet Potato"(1) give a list of some thirty products ranging from baked and fried potatoes to muffins and "sweet potato a la Agnes." In the more tropical countries attention is fairly well confined to the production in the field. It is recognised that the yield and quality of sweet potatoes is influenced by the type of soil, the climate, the particular variety, the cultural methods including manuring, method of planting and field practice, and the incidence of pests and diseases. Since the previous work at the College has been on varieties and cultural methods a discussion of these aspects will suffice.