

cuttings, the lower two feet of cane should never be used for this purpose.

Rind disease is caused by a fungus which attacks the stem of the cane. The leaves dry up and wither, and if the cane is split down the centre one or more of the internodes will be seen to be coloured reddish. Filaments of a fungus will be found in the cells of the discoloured tissue. The rind turns brown in colour and begins to shrivel. The fruits of the fungus appear as minute velvety patches on the discoloured parts of the rind, as a rule, just below the leaf base. All diseased canes should be burned as far as possible, and borers kept in check so as not to afford holes by which the fungus can enter the cane.

Cercospora vaginæ, Krüger, is a less important pest, which attacks the leaf sheath of the cane, causing discoloured patches.

W. G. Freeman.

Thornton, T., Improvement of Cotton by Seed Selection. (West India Bull. VII. p. 153—170. 1906.)

The importance of seed selection is pointed out and the improvements effected in producing early ripening plants, to increasing the length of staple and augmenting the resistance to disease in Sea Island cotton in the United States are quoted. Only recently have similar methods been employed in Africa, India and the West Indies.

The scheme for seed selection work in the West Indies is outlined and the results obtained in Barbados given in detail. The first selections are made in the field and the lint from these plants is afterwards examined in the laboratory the characters taken with consideration being: 1. Length of staple and uniformity of length. 2. Weight of seed cotton per plant. 3. Weight of seed cotton per boll or capsule. 4. Proportion of weak fibre. 5. Proportion of lint to seed. 6. Proportion of lint per plant. 7. Diameter of fibres. 8. General appearance, including fineness and silkiness.

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