

WARD, LESTER F., The *Pteridospermaphyta*. (Science. XX. p. 25—26. 1904.)

The name *Pteridospermaphyta* is proposed for a phylum coordinate with *Pteridophyta* and *Spermaphyta* for the reception of seed bearing *Pteridophytes* hitherto assigned to the *Cycadofilices*.

D. P. Penhallow.

COUSINS, H. H., The exports of Jamaica in relation to the Soil. (Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, Jamaica. Vol. II. p. 127—132. 1904.)

The author, the Government Chemist of Jamaica, states that on his appointment to the colony some years ago he expected to find the general fertility of the soils impaired by continual cropping under tropical conditions and that the problem of remedying this by means of manures would be the chief subject of his investigations. The results of analyses of soils from representative districts and manurial experiments have demonstrated 1. that most of the Jamaica soils now in cultivation present a high standard of fertility, 2. that fertilizers have only been productive of results on soils that have been under prolonged cultivation and then only under favourable conditions of rainfall or irrigation.

In this paper he sets forth the drain on the fertility of the soil as indicated by the amounts of potash and phosphoric acid annually sent out of the island in the exports. The average of the last five years has been taken of the quantities of produce exported; representative samples of most of the products have been analysed, and the results are given in tabular form.

The total exports weigh 706,719,393 lbs., containing on the average 0,405 per cent. of potash and 0,126 of phosphoric acid, equal to a total content of 2,865,522 lbs. of potash, and 896,712 lbs. of phosphoric acid, the value of these constituents in Jamaica being about £ 36000, or about 1,95 per cent. of the annual value of exports. Estimating the cultivated area of the colony at 700000 acres, it is calculated that each acre produces on the average exports to the value of £ 2.11.6 at a charge of 4 lbs. of potash and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of phosphoric acid, and the cost of restoring these ingredients to the land is approximately 1 s. per acre. This drain is infinitesimal when taken in regard to the island as a whole and the exports clearly make a very small demand on the essential minerals of soil fertility; the agricultural problem in Jamaica is not a chemical but a cultural one.

The author concludes by insisting on attention being devoted to drainage, the maintenance of humus, careful tillage, and marling.

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Personalnachrichten.

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