

WORLD CROPS

A new English journal, scientific and popular in character, has appeared in its Volume 1, No. 1 issue under date of September, 1949. The address of the publication will be supplied upon request to the Experiment Station Editor. This new English journal, "World Crops" is devoted to culture, protection, storage, handling and processing crops for food, fodder and industrial products. The editor is Sir H. Tempany, a prominent English agriculturist.

This first issue carries a dedicatory statement by Sir E. John Russell, F.R.S., long-time director of the famous old Rothamsted experiments and president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for 1949-50. Sir John Russell has twice visited the North Dakota Agricultural College.

Leading articles in this first issue include one on rice by D. H. Grist entitled, "Rice—Staple Food of Half the World." One article is by the editor—Sir H. Tempany on the Threatened Future of Cocoa; one on Oil Palms—an unsigned article carrying the slogan, "The crop which can do most to increase the worlds oil supply"; one on Tobacco by S. S. Murray which carries the interesting slogan, "Half Britains needs could be grown within the Empire".

Another article entitled "Crop Protection Congress"—reports upon the International Crop Protection Congress held in London in July, 1949. This was the second of its kind, the first having been held in Belgium at Louvain in 1946. This Crop Protection Congress was held under the presidency of the Rt. Honorable Viscount Bledisloe. Lord Bledisloe was a visitor to the North Dakota Agricultural College along with Sir John Russell in 1922 upon which occasion he addressed the faculty as did Sir John Russell. This second great International Congress dealt with insecticides, fungicides, plant growth regulators, toxicology of crop protection substances, methods of application, analytical methods and standardization.

The address of Sir David Rivett before the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry held at Manchester in 1949, is reviewed under the title, Science and the Soil. He comments at length about some of the problems in southwestern Australia where the future of sheep breeding is being threatened. He spoke on how to convert the two million acres at the lower boundary of South Australia and Victoria in that island continent into good sheep pasture by the addition of a few shillings worth per acre of certain rare elements to these deficient soils. Another article reports upon the British Overseas Food Corporation's Project on Sorghum Production in Queensland, Australia.

Those of us interested in fertilizers are especially interested in the Fertilizer Placement article by G. W. Cooke of the Chemistry Department of the Rothamsted Experiment Station at Harpenden, Hertfordshire, England. Results reported by G. W. Cooke confirm abundantly experiments conducted by Dr. E. B. Norum and Mr. R. A. Young of the Soils Department of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station this summer in demonstrating that the right place to put fertilizer is drilling it in with the seed, and that broadcasting the fertilizer is not nearly as beneficial. Cooke has demonstrated this on English soils in the growing of peas and barley.

One of the more fascinating articles is by A. Franke and C. Visser entitled, "Crops Grow on Walcheren Again". This is the story of the reclamation of the island of Walcheren in Holland which was flooded with sea water to keep out the Germans. Dutch engineers have reclaimed 15,000 hectares (one hectare equals 2.471 acres) since 1946. The island was flooded in 1944.

"World Crops" is going to prove to be a major source of reliable information on World Agriculture. It deserves reading not only within the Land-Grant College system but by many laymen interested in the program of World Agriculture. (Review by H. L. W.)