

gestion that Prof. Lotsy is a writer of undergraduate essays on this subject is wide of the mark. The more important portions of the address are those in which attention is directed to the widespread occurrence of heterothallism and hybridisation in fungi and to the increasing acceptance of behaviouristic criteria in specific delimitation.

The question of heterothallism has been studied by Dr. Derx, who records its occurrence in the genus *Penicillium*. Problems of strain and species in the genus *Colletotrichum* are discussed in relation to diseases of certain tropical crop plants by Dr. Small and Mr. M'Donald in two very interesting papers.

Dr. Petch of Ceylon, surely one of the most voluminous writers on mycological topics, continues his monumental series of studies in entomogenous fungi, dealing in the present paper with *Aegerita Webberi*. The same author also contributes an interesting paper on *Matula*. Dr. Petch's line-drawings are models of what such illustrations should be.

Miss Lorrain-Smith's note on lichen-dyes will be of use to the many people nowadays who are interested in the home-dyeing of hand-woven fabrics. From time to time, controversy has arisen as to the possible harmful effects of feeding bunted grain to stock, and as the result of thorough trials, Mr. Dobson is able to show that, from the point of view of the practical stock feeder, the danger is negligible.

The introduction of any new fungus pest is of importance, more particularly when, as in the present case of the downy mildew of the hop (*Pseudoperonospora*

spora Humuli), every stage of its invasion of England is known. Mr. Ware has discovered the interesting fact that this fungus can overwinter in the rootstock, and from that region invades developing shoots in early spring. An interesting paper by Mr. Maxwell and Dr. Wallace deals with the classical disease of black rust of cereals, *Puccinia graminis*, which was one of the first species of fungus in which strains specialised to particular hosts were described, and five of these (sp. f. *Tritici*, *Secalis*, *Avenae*, *Agrostidis*, *Phlei-pratensis*) are now recorded for Scotland. The obligate relation of the fungus to the barberry plant is also confirmed. Mr. Dowson describes an interesting core-rot and premature fall of apples associated with the fungus *Sclerotinia fructigena*, and Mrs. Alcock discusses the important and somewhat neglected phenomenon of successional disease in plants. She shows clearly how *Cryptomyces maximus*, which is a parasite, weakens *Salix fragilis* so that *Scleroderma fuliginosum*, a semi-parasite, can attack it. This in turn so weakens the tree that such a fungus as *Myxosporium scutellatum*, which is mostly a saprophyte, can then invade the tissues.

This issue of the Transactions opens with a fine portrait of Mr. Cheeseman, the president elect of the Society in 1925. Mr. Cheeseman was the type of amateur field-naturalist to which botanical science in England owes so much. Such men are now, unfortunately, all too rare, and Mr. Cheeseman's untimely death removes one who can little be spared in mycology. Many of us will remember him, in addition, as a very fine type of English gentleman. W. B. B.

Forest Administration in British Honduras.

BEFORE the War, forestry administration in many British smaller colonies and dependencies remained a dead letter. The governors were either men trained to diplomacy or distinguished soldiers. If consideration was given to the matter, it was dismissed with the argument that forestry would not pay. That the argument was fallacious can already be demonstrated by practical examples. For many years British Honduras has been noted for its mahogany, which was extracted on the principles that have destroyed so many forests in the world. Four years ago, the first attempt at introducing a forest administration into the country was made—not without many doubts as to the wisdom of the projected step, both at home and in the colony. A two years' trial was to be made, and three Forest Officers were appointed.

The fourth annual forest report on this new departure has just been issued. From its pages it is easy to see that the young department has already made good. So far, the work has been mainly devoted to assisting the several lumbering companies at work in the forests on government leases. In some respects the operations are proceeding on lines similar to the working of the Burmese forests by the British forest officers of earlier days. Already, however, the work of exploring the government forests, collecting topographical and other details, has been commenced (the superior staff now amounting to six), and it is hoped to be able to carry out the exploration of the practically unknown territory of the Western Highlands. The following remark in the report illustrates how fascinating and valuable this work will prove:

"At the time of writing a reliable base-line has been established between Vaca and the Rio Grande and a good general idea of the forests of this region obtained. The investigation has brought to light the presence of tree species hitherto unknown to occur in the Colony, and types of forest which, though mentioned in the

narrative of Fowler and Sapper, have never been closely studied or described." The small staff have already commenced to study the silviculture of some of the more important species such as mahogany and sapodilla, both at the successful and promising Botanic Station and elsewhere.

It may come as a surprise to many to realise that the forest produce of British Honduras is exported to the United Kingdom, Canada, and Bermuda, in the British Empire, and to the United States, France, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. "The indications," says the Conservator of Forests, "of a developing trade in forest produce with Canada in the form of mahogany lumber, and with the neighbouring republics in the form of pine lumber, are satisfactory features. The general swing of the pendulum from foreign to British markets is governed by movements in mahogany: one would like to regard it as a permanent gain for British trade, but this would not be justifiable." It seems almost incredible that in view of the fact that four-fifths of the Colony's wealth is derived from its forests, the forest officer was only introduced four years ago, and that opposition should still exist to expenditure on the proper conservation and management of the forests; for this work, to be successful, will require a far larger staff than at present exists.

In the interests of the Empire it would be of value if the leaders responsible for the coal strike would give consideration to the following remark in the report: "The effects of the Coal Strike are at least in part responsible for a set-back in the price of mahogany." The report displays unmistakably the great possibilities of development in front of this Colony. The Conservator's attention may be directed to the oft-reiterated suggestion that vernacular names of trees, without their scientific ones, and also local vernacular terms untranslated, detract from the value of such reports outside the Colonies for which they are written.