

The gathered crop was treated in the following way. The panicles, cut close to the base of the spikelets, were brought in in baskets and put in heaps of ten, then in heaps of 100 to get an exact count of the crop. The whole day's gathering was then exposed to the sun on a concrete floor and after a few hours drying, the whole was trodden under with the feet, the right foot being now and again used in a twisting motion to tear the spikelets asunder. The result was a mixture of husks, of nerves of panicles, and of grain which was then taken up on trays, the ordinary "neerus" of the country—and there, after three circular motions and a final jerk upward, the seed, absolutely clean, was dropped in a basket in front, the remaining waste being thrown aside. This work requires great deftness of hand and tamil women excel at it.

E. MATHIEU.

(To be continued.)

### Coconut Bud Rot.

The Philippine Journal of Science Vol: XIV, No. 1, January, 1919 contains a valuable addition to our knowledge of the disease known as "bud rot" which causes such severe losses of coconut trees throughout the tropics. Mr. Otto A. Reinking after giving a short history of the symptoms of the disease gives in detail his investigations both in the laboratory and the field. In his conclusions he states that the actual cause of the disease is a fungus *Phytophthora Faberi* Maubl. which in the majority of cases is quickly followed by bacteria which rapidly destroy the weakened tissues, causing the familiar rot.

As the fungus is the same that attacks coconut seedlings, cacao fruit, Hevea rubber seedlings, and papaya fruit, and as it is impossible to cure trees badly infected he gives the following instructions:—

1. Systematic inspection, condemning and burning of all diseased coconut trees.
2. All parts of diseased trees must be burned, otherwise the organism will live as a saprophyte on dead matter, and then spread to healthy trees.
3. Clean cultivation ought to be practised in all groves.
4. Under no circumstances should coconuts be interplanted with cacao or papayas.
5. If coconuts are planted near diseased Hevea rubber, precautions should be taken to avoid the spread of the disease.
6. Trees in new groves must be planted 10 meters apart each way. This spacing is one of the most satisfactory means of control against bud rot, and at the same time tends to give the highest production of nuts.

T. F. C.