

EDITORIAL COMMENT

This number of the *Tea Quarterly* is small: size has been sacrificed to promptness of publication. It is not possible for the Institute at present to produce enough properly finished research results, pithily described, to fill every issue of a full-sized *Quarterly*. In this issue there are introductory articles on mite pests of tea and on eelworms. As further work on mites is published, Mr Cranham's review article will serve as a background for it.

Eelworms

Dr Hutchinson's article on eelworms, which he prefers to call by the more-embracing name of nematodes, defines certain terms which have become important in selecting clones for vegetative propagation. His clonal testing programme, his survey, and the large number of soil samples being sent in by estates, are putting a strain on the eelworm assessment accommodation and the nematology staff. For this reason, estates are now asked not to send in more than three soil samples at a time for eelworm assessment, unless special arrangements have been made with the Nematologist.

The Institute's Recommendations

It is not uncommon for planters to do things that are not recommended by the Institute. In some cases, this is simply because the Institute must be sure before it can recommend; it takes time to make sure and the Institute's recommendation sometimes eventually confirms what has been to some extent already practised. In other cases, the Institute is aware of dangers or weaknesses in practices that are beginning to spread. For example, the Institute has failed to discover any advantage in using stickers in blister-blight spraying; but because some planters do use a sticker, further work is being done by Dr Mulder.

Shot-hole Borer

Again, Dr Judenko has shown that considerable reductions can be produced in shot-hole-borer populations by spraying the lower parts of tea in plucking with 1½ lb. of dieldrin in 100 gallons of water per acre; but he is still not recommending this. Some planters are using dieldrin (though mostly on freshly pruned frames), but other investigations, which Dr Judenko lists, are required before the Institute can follow a firm line. It is already known that most such dieldrin spraying operations are followed by Tea Tortrix outbreaks and, incidentally, many of the outbreaks of Tea Tortrix follow such dieldrin spraying. Enquiries are being made about the present importance of such outbreaks, compared with the importance of shot-hole-borer attacks themselves. It is a reasonable inference, however, that if dieldrin spraying were to become the universal practice in shot-hole-borer country, the importance of Tea Tortrix would increase as the migration distance imposed on the tortrix parasite (*Macrocetrus hemonae*) increased.

Miscellaneous

As we go to press with this issue of the *Tea Quarterly*, the previous issue is being completed by the printers; that is to say, it is too early for any response to the suggestion made that planters should contribute more material to the *Tea Quarterly*. The suggestion stands.

General news regarding the Institute is that advertisements have appeared for two Heads of Divisions, the Biochemist and the Plant Breeder, and applications are coming in. The Biochemistry Division is revived as a separate Division and the Plant Breeding Division is a new one.