

75. *Mahali disease of areca palms*.—This disease continues to diminish and only 1,500 diseased trees in a few isolated gardens were sprayed this year by the district staff in the VII Circle. The campaign against this disease culminated in 1916 and 1917 in each of which years over 40,000 trees were sprayed by the department. Many sprayers have been sold to garden owners. It seems clear that this disease has been effectually checked and brought under control.

76. *Work against smut*.—This was continued in the Kurnool and Bellary districts and 1,535 lb. of copper sulphate sold in 415 villages, which was enough to treat the seed for sowing some 47,000 acres of dry crops. When seed is so treated, whether it be sorghum, arika, korra or cumbu, the resulting crop develops no smutted ear-heads.

77. *Water Hyacinth*.—During the year a notification declaring this plant a noxious weed under the Pest Act was extended to the Gōdāvari district, and to the Trichinopoly taluk. It continued to be in force in the municipal limits of Vizianagram and Cuddalore, in certain villages of Malabar, and in the Berhampur taluk of the Ganjām district. It is no longer in force in the Surada taluk of the Ganjām district as the Collector reported that it had been eradicated there. The campaign against this weed is being carried out by the Revenue authorities and the Agricultural Department is only concerned in an advisory capacity. Illustrated vernacular leaflets describing the plant have been prepared and issued. The reports of the Collectors state that the plant has been successfully eradicated in most places. But it has a habit of surviving and multiplying unexpectedly so that long continued vigilance will be necessary.