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FOREWORD

The papers which appear in this and the following number of the "JOURNAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OF PORTO RICO" have all been read at the meetings of the "Association of Sugar Technologists of Porto Rico." The papers which were presented at the first meeting of the Association which was held on June 17, 1922, at the Carnegie Library, San Juan, P. R., were published as Vol. I, No. 1 of the "Memoirs of the Association of Sugar Technologists of Porto Rico."

During the last year, the work and development of the Association has become so intimately connected with the Department of Agriculture and Labor of Porto Rico, and especially with one of its branches, the Insular Experiment Station, that it has seemed advantageous to publish its proceedings in the "JOURNAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE", a periodical which has attained a wide reputation and circulation among the scientific world. Consequently, Nos. 2 and 3 of Vol. VIII of THE JOURNAL have been assigned to the publication of miscellaneous papers on sugar-cane culture and manufacture. No. 2 will contain a number of interesting papers which were read at the meetings held on January 5, 1923; June 17, 1923, and June 14, 1924, while No. 3 will be taken up by an article of our Cane Technologist, Mr. Arthur H. Rosenfeld, on the "Java P. O. J. Canes in Tucumán and Porto Rico".

A word about our Association. The necessity of this association was strongly felt by our trained men in the different fields of our sugar-cane industry. Thanks to the initiative of Prof. F. S. Earle and other enthusiastic men, a preliminary meeting was held in San Juan, early in April, 1922. The first regular session was held on June 17, 1922, and a large number of our prominent sugar men were present. Prof. F. S. Earle, was chosen first president, and the Association held its own with enthusiasm for a year or so. Unfortunately for us, the "old man" left his position in Central Aguirre, to accept a more lucrative one with the General Sugar Co. interests

in Cuba. Professor Earle's departure was a hard blow on us, but our spirit did not die out, and our last meeting, held on June 14, 1923, was a great success. The audience was honored with the presence of Prof. F. D. Kern, dean of the graduate school of the Pennsylvania State College, and Prof. H. H. Whetzel, of the Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell University. Both of these gentlemen delivered short addresses which were well received. Practically all the centrals of the Island were represented at the meeting.

It may be safely assured that our organization has already visualized the great possibilities which may develop in the future, in the way of lending a helping hand to our colleagues from Cuba and Santo Domingo, who according to late reports are very badly struck with the mosaic disease and the variety problems. Will our Association in the future extend its scope to the rest of the West Indies, or possibly to the rest of the sugar-producing countries of America?

CARLOS E. CHARDÓN,
President.