
LETTER BOX.

[From time to time there are received questions of general interest which require relatively short answers. Whenever the questions are of wide enough application to warrant it, the answers will be published under this heading.]

1. What is to be done this year about dyes and dyeing?

Answer.—Fortunately, the Bureau recently has been able to purchase a lot of about 350 pounds of German dyes that had been held as a speculation. The price was ₱3,000. As a means of making the best possible use of these dyes they will be kept at the General Office where much of the dyeing for the provinces will be done. In this connection it should be stated that since 750 tons of German dyes have just been landed by a submarine in America, the dye situation is likely to become less tense.

2. Is the use of Johnson's wood dye for coloring rattan feasible? Who has tried it? Does it permit of use for this purpose? Does it come in black?

Answer.—Johnson's wood dye can be used to dye rattan core, but would not be satisfactory when used on the peel, as the hard shell of the rattan makes it more or less impervious to a dye which is applied cold.

It has not been considered worth while to experiment with it as it is expensive and evaporates very rapidly.

It comes in a color which is considered jet black.

3. Have either American sweet potatoes or Irish potatoes been grown successfully anywhere in the Philippines?

Answer.—American sweet potatoes are now *the* sweet potatoes of Bukidnon, Mindanao. They were introduced through the settlement farm schools. The Bureau of Agriculture is now making extensive distribution of cuttings of American sweet potatoes.

Irish potatoes are successfully grown in Baguio, Mountain Province, Indang, Cavite, and Batanes, while potatoes of very inferior size are grown in certain towns of southern Cebu.

4. How can cabbages with good solid heads be grown in the Philippines?

Answer.—This question is fully answered in Bulletin No. 31, School and Home Gardens. Well-prepared soil, daily application of water to the soil, and constant cultivation are prime requisites for successful cabbage culture.