

Chimera in Pineapple.

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A PINEAPPLE plant exhibiting the combined characters of the two varieties, *viz.*, Queen and Kew (Smooth Cayenne) grown on the Kumta Farm (North Kanara) was observed recently growing in a plot. A critical study of the same was undertaken with a view to differentiate the outstanding characters and ultimately determine its possible origin. The following are the most important distinguishing characters in which the plant was found to differ prominently from the existing two types.

The leaf margins like the Queen are armed with conspicuous spines but the surface resembles very closely the leaf surface of the Kew which has a distinct brown centre along its entire length with green edges. The leaf surface of the Queen, however, has a uniform reddish brown colour to about half the length, the base being greenish. The leaf margins of the Kew are perfectly smooth.

The tendency of the chimeric plant towards the production of 'seed' (planting material) has been found to be similar to that of the Kew which is a very shy bearer of suckers and more so of slips. The Kew variety produces on an average two suckers but instances of plant producing slips are very few and far between. The Queen pine, on the other hand, bears suckers and slips

freely, often profusely; the average being four and five respectively.

The fruit and the crown consisting of cluster of leaves resemble very closely the fruit and the crown of the Kew, particularly in the colour of the 'eyes' which is deep purple. The contrast lies in the crown leaves, the margins of which are spiny like the Queen. It may be pointed out here that at the final stage of ripening of the fruit, all the 'eyes' not only showed a perceptible increase in dimensions but had completely flattened thereby giving the fruit a striking resemblance to the fruit of the Kew.

The foregoing distinguishing characters of the plant lead to the conclusion that the exposition of the plant in the present form is mainly due to the combination of characters of two distinct varieties and, therefore, it is difficult to determine its right origin.

However, the only possible explanation of this phenomenon is that the present chimera seems to have arisen from the Queen so far as vegetative characters are concerned, while the fruit gives a clear indication of its source from the Kew. And, since these have combined in a bud sport, it is reasonable to presume that the two types, *viz.*, Queen and Kew, must have arisen from a common stalk retaining the potentiality to mutate in either direction, *i.e.*, towards Queen or Kew when conditions were favourable.

Man and Woman.*

THE recent work of Havelock Ellis, *Man and Woman* which ostensibly sets forth to examine the leading characteristics of man and woman from the biological standpoint, provides an admirable background for the exposition of socio-economic problems. The fundamental point on which the main thesis is developed is that it is possible to regard the determination of sex as independent of any possible intervention by sex chromosomes, and also to recognise an essential sameness of sex in all organisms, the sexes being due to the action of two

opposed sets of influences, one tending to produce the characters called female, the other tending to produce the characters called male. Apart from the physical structural differences, men and women usually display traces of dispositions belonging to the opposite sex, while it is not uncommon that the play of these traits may result in a physically homosexual condition. This conception of men and women underlies the doctrine of the entire equivalence of the sexes; and the investigation of the secondary and tertiary sex characters tends to point out that the unequal and unlike values are, in all their differences, of equivalent weight. Secondary sexual characters, supposed to be the product of sexual

*"Man and Woman". A Study of Secondary and Tertiary Sexual Characters. By Havelock Ellis. (Eighth Edition, Revised.) [William Heinmann (Medical Books) Ltd., London, 1934.] Pp. vi+469. Price 10s. 6d. net.

selection, are those obvious characters which render the sexes attractive to each other, while the tertiary characters which are not usually so obvious, and which may not be confined to only one sex, are generally predominant in one sex, such as height, stature, the structure of internal organs and the differences of endo-skeleton. There is a complete review of the anatomical features and physiological differences of man and woman, based on the conclusions deduced from scientific and statistical investigations, and the mass of information contained in the twelve chapters devoted to the treatment of the subject is simply prodigious.

The present knowledge of men and women can only tell us what they are under the influence of civilisation, but cannot tell us what they might be or what they ought to be; and even a precise knowledge of the degree of their modifiability will not enable us to limit the respective spheres of men and women. Men are more variable and women are more precocious involving greater rapidity of growth and its early arrest; these facts have consequences of wide significance. The whole physical and psychic organism of the average woman is unlike that of the average man, on account of this fact alone. Another fact of equally far-reaching character is that the average man diverges to a greater extent from the child-type than the adult woman. It may almost appear paradoxical to state that the growth of man, from about the third year onwards, is to some extent growth in degeneration and senility, through an absolutely necessary adaptation to environment, and that the human infant presents in an exaggerated form the distinctive characteristics of humanity, *viz.*, the large head and brain, the small face, the hairlessness, delicate bony system and enlarged endocrine glands. In many respects women remain somewhat nearer to children than to men, to that extent they occupy a higher scale in the line of evolution.

The facts of physical and psychical organisation of women have a profound practical bearing on the spheres of activity into which they are entering in increasing numbers. They are an important industrial factor, although a large portion of them may not remain as life-workers. Apparently, as a sex, they seem to lack both a man's ambition and his disinterested mental curiosity. Because of the possible transitoriness of their engagements, it is difficult to estimate

the force and soundness of their disposition to be trained for skilled and responsible positions. At present, it is only in Scandinavia that women as a sex seem to be demonstrating any aptitude for the more skilled branches of technical work and obtain employment on equal terms with men. This is largely due to the fact that the economy of reproduction under improved conditions has given greater freedom to women and conferred on them a greater control of their own energies. The activities of men and women in all gainful occupations are bound to become competitive and their harmonious and wholesome relationship must depend in all such adaptations upon the preservation of the fundamental and natural constitution of each sex. The doctrine of the equality of the sexes led to unregulated industrialism, with consequences most injurious to women as is reflected in the condition of the physical and mental health of women labourers.

It seems fairly certain that women are not going to outstrip men or even to equal them, in the fields in which men are certainly successful. It is only in one country that they seem to be rising to the most responsible type of position and that country presents conditions both unusual and abnormal—Russia.

We have read this book with great pleasure. The interest of the book extends far beyond the limits of biological implications of sex. The study of secondary and tertiary sexual characters opens a new field of investigation of the social and economic problems, and their readjustment and final solution should not be subordinated to political doctrines.

The book is a profound philosophical treatise on the most fundamental human problem in its varied and complex aspects, and the clarity of vision, scholarship and above all the total absence of prejudice and conventional formulas which distinguish its pages are a contrast to the common-place literature on the subject of sex. Havelock Ellis is a wise thinker and his outlook may even be conservative, but his contributions to contemporary thought on psycho-physical subjects are marked by deep sympathy and wise scholarship. His *Man and Woman* is undoubtedly a great work and students of Anthropology, Sociology, Economics and Politics will find in it a wealth of information such as few books can provide.