

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.