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KNOWLEDGE knows no boundaries

A BOTANIST AT DAVIS, a horticulturist at Riverside, a plant physiologist in Japan, and a forester in Norway might all be working on different but related research projects. None of them may come up with results having immediate, practical importance. But a fifth investigator in Chile may be able to combine what he knows with information published by the other four and revolutionize a phase of agriculture that has remained unchanged for half a century.

The glue that holds international science together is the free exchange of scientific and technical publications on a worldwide basis. In California the Agricultural Experiment Station's unit in the system is the office of Agricultural Publications in Berkeley.

End product

Experiments conducted by staff members of the Division of Agricultural Sciences would be of little or no value if the results remained buried in the files of the investigator. Tests that develop information having immediate, practical application must be brought to the attention of farmers and processors. Basic research that turns up new knowledge—no matter how impractical it may seem at the time—must be recorded and made available to other scientists. Thus the end product of any research project is publication of the results and making the information available to others.

Every month CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE reports progress in agricultural research to growers, agribusinessmen and re-

searchers. Its audience is statewide, nationwide, and worldwide.

In addition, a typical year will see over 1,800 articles by California staff members published in technical or popular journals. These articles will total nearly 20,000 pages of printed material.

Annual output

The office of Agricultural Publications will produce an annual output of about 40 pieces of literature ranging in size from small folders to 500-page books. A typical month's distribution of this literature will total over 6,000 copies of Bulletins; 10,000 Circulars; 8,000 Leaflets; and perhaps 12,000 copies of the highly technical journal *HILGARDIA* sent to many countries throughout the world.

Some of the semi-technical and popular publications are also used in agricultural classes in California schools and a few of the for-sale publications (manuals and books) have been adopted as textbooks by other colleges and universities.

This publishing program is not a one-way street, however. In return for the California material sent worldwide, the libraries at Berkeley, Davis, and Riverside receive valuable publications from many countries. Individual investigators and other departmental staff members carry on correspondence with colleagues all over the world—with whom they also exchange publications and information.

If the peoples of the planet Earth are ever to achieve real understanding, it is likely to be through a system similar to that currently being used by scientific investigators.