

**ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY DR. H. D. HUGGINS, PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES**

St. Augustine came into being as an institution for teaching and research in agriculture 45 years ago and one may liken the event to a marriage. If you liken it to a marriage I would remind you that the appropriate stone or symbol on the 45th anniversary in marriage is the sapphire. Since the sapphire is a fancy form of bauxite it would permit me to make the point that the research work with bauxite in British Guiana was merely one of the activities whose remarkable achievement in the early years of this century brought to the attention of the world the potential of an institution such as this for the procreation of research work and research workers. If according to the precepts of Ecclesiastes we would praise these famous men there is none whose praise would be louder than Sydney Crosse Harland, whom it is a pleasure and an honour to have with us today.

The United Kingdom Government and others have contributed generously to this institution. Few investments have rewarded better either in the United Kingdom, the West Indies, or elsewhere. With tropical agriculture mostly a supplier of raw products and with terms of trade tending to move against raw products, the primary producers could in the 1920's and 1930's place their main hope in higher productivity. None can estimate what was owed in those years to these agriculturists trained at St. Augustine and who headed soil surveys, pest control units, field experiment stations, research units, agricultural departments throughout the tropical and sub-tropical world.

This is the record, the tradition of which the School of Agriculture is today the lineal descendant. No finer tribute could be paid to this tradition than that this symposium, organised by the School should have attracted so international a gathering. With many of you, as with us, an intractable problem in economic development is rapidly increasing agricultural production and agricultural productivity. One advantage of this institution is the wide range of conditions and experiences which it encompasses. Thus let us take the subject of this symposium — the production of more food and of root crops, particularly. Jamaica with 1964 figures of production of goods and services amounting to \$,200 million with 13% contribution from agriculture (compared with Trinidad's production of goods and services amounting to \$1,000 million with 10% contributed from agriculture) has imports of food per annum of \$57 per capita of population (compared with \$90 per capita food imports into Trinidad). This means that the imports of food per capita are some 60% higher in Trinidad than Jamaica.

I have learnt from Professor Tai's informative article, which appeared in today's newspaper, that the definition of a symposium is a "drinking party — a convivial meeting for drinking and intellectual entertainment." I gather that this symposium is carefully respecting that order of precedence. I wish the symposium well in both spheres.