On Bo Station parasites of several pests were recorded. From *Telicota bambusae* larvae two parasites were recorded and each appears to be of economic importance. One was a Braconid wasp, possibly *Disophrys* sp. and the other was a Chalcid wasp not in the Rabaul collections. This latter parasite was also bred as a parasite of the Corn Stalk Borer in maize on this station.

Weed pests in the district include *Sida rhombifolia,* which is being successfully controlled on most plantations by a good cover of *Centrosema pubescens.* In native areas the owners have been advised to hand pull and burn this weed, in preference to cutting it, which seems to cause it to grow thicker and stronger.

Stachytarpheta indica (Blue Rat's Tail) was plentiful in parts but a campaign of eradication of this pest by hand pulling and burning seems to have been successful.

Throughout the district small patches of Milky Cotton Weed (*Asclepsia currasavica*) are to be found and in each case the owners have been advised to eradicate the weed, since there is the possibility of stock being poisoned if it is allowed to remain.

TUNG OIL.

The tung oil tree, *Aleurites fordii*, which is found growing in many parts of New Guinea, is indigenous to China, where it grows wild in the hills near the Yangtze River. The seed contains an excellent oil which has become well known as an essential component in the manufacture of quick-drying paints and varnishes, water-proofing and fire-proofing materials, oil cloth, linoleum, insulating compounds and many other products.

The Chinese way of treating the crop is as follows:—

The fruit is collected in a green state, made up into heaps and covered with straw or grass. Fermentation takes place and the fleshy parts of the fruit rot away until the nuts are easily removed. They are then placed in a large circular stone trough and crushed under a heavy stone roller, which, drawn by an ox or other animal, revolves in the trough.

After being roasted for a short time in shallow iron pans, the crushed mass is thrown into wooden vats with open-work bottoms, over cauldrons of boiling water and thoroughly steamed. Meanwhile, iron rings, about 18 inches in diameter, are placed on the floor and covered with layers of straw whereon the steaming meal is arranged to a depth of several inches, the ends of the straw being drawn over to cover the tops of the cakes which, thereby formed, are withdrawn from the rings and placed on end in sloping wooden presses.

When a press is nearly full of cakes, wooden wedges are inserted in the upper end of the slope and, as these are driven home, one after another, with a hammer, a brown fluid exudes from the cakes and drops into a tank underneath.

This fluid is commercial tung oil and amounts to approximately 40 per cent. of the weight of the seed.

Owing to war conditions, the demand for tung oil has increased and at present prices are exceptionally high. R.C.H.