

LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS ON THE MANUFACTURE OF CHINESE ANG-KHAK IN THE UNITED STATES.⁵By **M. B. Church.**

[ABSTRACT.]

ANG-KHAK or red rice, a common Chinese vegetable color, is used in food products of China. Its character is due to the growth of certain strains of a mold, *Monascus purpureus* Went, throughout specially treated rice kernals. This mold is so utilized only in the Orient. Certain strains of the same fungus have been found in America in corn silage and on "freckled" salt codfish. The finished red rice is composed of clear-cut grains of a dark red color, and crumbles easily into a fine, soft, red powder. On contact with watery solutions, it breaks down into similar fine particles. In the manufacture of red rice the water content of the uninoculated rice must be suitably adjusted. Temperature also must be considered. In these laboratory experiments a 25 per cent. water content at room temperature (22-24° C.) was successful. Other water contents caused the mold-infected rice grains to split into flinty fragments rather than to break down into a powder. As the physiological activity of each strain of *Monascus purpureus* may vary quantitatively, it is necessary to resort to the selection of strains in order to produce successful red rice.

Flax Growing Within the Empire. (*Journal of Royal Society of Arts*, November 7, 1919.)—Before the war Britain needed about 100,000 tons of this fibre. Seventy to 80 per cent. came from Russia, while Belgium, France and Holland contributed a total of 10 per cent., and Ireland as much. The over-running of the flax-growing parts of France and Belgium was followed by the collapse of Russia. This was met by an extension of the acreage under flax in Scotland and England, but especially in Ireland, where in 1914 there were 49,000 acres and in 1918 143,000, chiefly in Ulster.

The present outlook for an adequate supply of flax is not satisfactory. It is not yet determined whether it is possible to establish the industry permanently in Great Britain under modern conditions of wages and machinery.

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Revue Générale de l'Electricité, November 15, 1919, contains an illustrated article by GEORGE P. ROUX on "The Energy Distributing System of the Philadelphia Electric Company." Special emphasis is laid upon the "load dispatcher" and the apparatus employed by him.

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