

Mr. Wilson Popenoe writes from Guatemala City Nov. 8, 1916: "As to early maturing varieties of the chayote; I presume you mean by this those which will come into fruit within a few months from planting. Apparently they have chayotes here all the year round, and consequently it is hard to tell which are the early and which are the late varieties, but I will look into the matter and see what I can find out. It is hard to get real information on such a subject, but by watching for plants in the gardens as I go round, I can probably get some ideas as to the habits of the different varieties. I am glad you liked the large white *perulero*. This still looks to me like the best variety here, and I have asked several of the natives about it, and they have expressed the same opinion. It is rare, and I have seen none of the fruit in the market since I bought the last lot I sent you. There is no end to the varieties of the chayote here, but the choice varieties are very few. I must say, although I do it with hesitation, that my appetite for chayotes is on the wane. This is no reflection on the chayote, which is a meritorious vegetable per se, but we get them every day, and nearly always cooked in the same way, - just boiled and served without anything on them. I want to tell you, however, that you Americans are making a great mistake in not familiarizing yourselves with the *ichinta*. No, this is not a new vegetable, it is merely the root of the chayote, and I believe it is just about as good as the chayote itself. It reminds me greatly of sweet cassava, which we used to get in Brazil. It is starchy, and not unlike an Irish potato in texture and appearance. They cut it in slices and fry it in batter, and it is good. In the markets here it is extremely common. I have also eaten the tender shoots of the chayote, - I did not know what I was eating until I had finished, - and they are not bad, but I do not consider them any improvement over the various kinds of greens we already have in the states. I believe that large white *perulero*, if grown under good culture, would be a cracking good chayote, and I hope it will be given a thorough trial. As yet I have not hunted for any chayote diseases, but the vines I have seen have seemed to be healthy, and I have noticed nothing which seemed to be interfering with their growth seriously. No doubt there are diseases, but so far I have run across nothing which seemed to be wiping out the vines. You expect to find a disease, or several of