

## GROWING AVOCADOS FROM SLIPS

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*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

My information on the subject of Avocado cuttings is all second hand, as I have never made any myself. It is a matter of considerable interest to know that it can be done, whether it is ever commercially successful or not. My attention was first brought to the matter through hearing of some experiments in that line made by Mr. Corcoran, Horticultural Instructor at the Manual Arts High School, Los Angeles, and the following information was received through him:

The cutting should be made when the tree is as inactive as possible and should be from young, firm wood. Care should be taken that the knife is very sharp and that the cut is made through a node, or joint. It may help to slit the bark slightly at the lower end so as to break it and aid in callousing. Ether seems to aid the process but they will root without it. When ether is used the upper part of the cutting is protected by paraffin, or by inserting in sand and the lower part exposed for eight hours to the action of one cubic centimeter of commercial ether to the cubic foot, covering the cuttings with a bell glass or similar contrivance during the process. This acts on the oils and starches, changing them to sugar, making them more active and aiding absorption or sap current.

Prof. J. C. Whitten of the College of Agriculture is going to work on this during the coming season, and his results will be available within a year. A letter addressed to him at Berkeley will bring a response as to his methods and success. Under good lath house conditions with clean sand and starting about the last of February, there should be little difficulty in rooting at least 50 per cent of the cuttings made.