Today we are assembled in the first annual meeting since the organization of the American Society of Agronomy—the first association of the kind in America, and one that will have, without question, a tremendous influence on agricultural investigation and practice. In recent years much has been said about agronomy. There are now many agronomists in this country. The use of the term has become common. Yet the question, What is agronomy?, if propounded to these same agronomists, would receive various and probably conflicting answers. There are at least two reasons for this condition, chief of which is that the growth of the subject has been so rapid that practice has far outrun definition and classification. Again, local conceptions of the term are colored by close relations in practice to certain other subjects, which are not the same in every locality. In Illinois agronomy is associated most closely with chemistry, in Iowa with physics and mechanics, and in Minnesota with animal husbandry.

That our ideas of definition and classification do not keep pace with practice is shown in the definitions given in recent dictionaries. The Standard defines agronomy as follows:

"The science that treats of the distribution and management of land, especially as a source of national wealth."

Agronomy is defined as scientific husbandry, and an agronomist as one who applies agronomic principles to the management of land.

Webster defines agronomy as "the management of land; rural economy; agriculture." Agronomics is called "the science of the distribution and management of land."

According to the Century Dictionary agronomy is an art—the art of cultivating the ground; agriculture; while agronomics is a science, the science of the management of farms; that division of