SOME DESIRABLE PRECAUTIONS IN PLAT EXPERIMENTATION.

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In laying out field experiments, one of the vexed questions is the shape of the plats. Obviously the shape is immaterial, provided all of the plats are laid out upon absolutely uniform land, and if provision is made against the carrying of contamination from one plat to another, whether by means of the manures or in the operations of tillage. These conditions seldom exist, and hence the shape of the plats is usually an important factor where the influence of soil variation must be avoided to the greatest extent. It is also a feature of vital importance when it comes to a consideration of the ease and cost of caring for the plats. The longer the plats, other things being equal, the less the expense, owing to the relatively less number of turns involved in plowing, harrowing, and cultivating.

It is also quite generally accepted, as a result of the many earlier discussions of the subject, that the length of the plat should preferably be considerably greater than its breadth. A suitable and satisfactory relationship of breadth to length is that of about 1:4 to 1:6.