In discussing this question we ought to have statistics of the moisture content of a large number of samples of hay taken at the time the yields are determined. In the short time in which I have had to prepare this paper I have not been able to collect statistics of this character. However, Mr. H. B. McClure, of the Office of Farm Management, has kindly collected for me a lot of statistics concerning the moisture content of various samples of hay, which lead to the following observations.

Leaving out the percentage of moisture given by Jordan, in his book on feeding farm animals, of red clover cut in bloom, which is 20.8 per cent, the percentage of moisture in a large series of samples varies from a little over 2 per cent to 15 per cent. In a series of eighteen samples taken by Mr. McClure in January from market hay, the moisture content runs from 2.21 per cent to 6.62 per cent, the average being approximately 5 per cent.

A large amount of data collected from various publications shows the moisture content of hay to vary from about 6½ per cent to 15.3 per cent, the lower figures being generally found in the case of hay cured in the dry climate of the Plains Region and the higher figures being from the Eastern States, where the humidity is greater.

I think it would be safe to assume that hay as it is ordinarily put into the stack or into the mow may vary in moisture content from 5 to 20 per cent. Supposing that this extreme variation should occur amongst a series of plats which are being tested for comparative yields, we thus have an error of approximately 15 per cent.