REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF VARIETAL STANDARDIZATION.

At the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy held in Chicago in 1919, a Committee on Varietal Standardization was appointed by the President of the Society for the purpose of considering nomenclatorial matters with regard to varieties of staple cultivated crops. The following were named by the President as members of the committee: Prof. E. F. Gaines, Washington Agricultural Experiment Station; Prof. George Stewart, Utah Agricultural Experiment Station; Prof. J. H. Parker, Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. H. H. Love, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station; J. Allen Clark, Bureau of Plant Industry; Dr. L. H. Smith, Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station; Prof. H. K. Hayes, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station; H. G. Hastings, of Hastings Seed Co.; A. B. Conner, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station; and R. A. Oakley, Bureau of Plant Industry, Chairman.

After notice of appointment was received from the President of the Society, the chairman of the committee took up correspondence with the various members for the purpose of obtaining suggestions as to the most promising lines along which it was thought practical good might be accomplished. Some very constructive suggestions were offered, and tentative plans were made by the chairman for a meeting of the committee at the annual meeting of the Society in 1920. Subsequent correspondence with the members of the committee disclosed the fact that few, if any, would be present at the annual meeting at Springfield and, therefore, it is thought that it will be necessary to do most of the work for the coming year thru correspondence.

In going over the suggestions that have been offered by members of the present committee and those offered by similar committees in the past, the Chairman is of the opinion that the greatest good that the committee can hope to accomplish will be along the line of formulating rules of nomenclature and the organization of permanent machinery whereby these rules may be constantly called to the attention of those working on varietal classification and to act as a court of reference in the case of controversies. It was thought at one time that field work might be planned and executed in a very helpful way, but at present it does not appear that it would be feasible to attempt work of this nature. There are a number of pieces of classification work under way and it is believed that assistance can best be rendered by this committee in the nature of cooperation and coordination in connection with existing activities.

Various sets of nomenclature rules have been proposed by members of the American Society of Agronomy and other agronomic workers, and there seems to be a considerable difference of opinion with regard to the rules that should be followed. It is hoped that the Committee on Varietal Standardization will be able to reach some definite agreement as to rules of nomenclature and will also formulate workable plans for establishing and maintaining a Referee.