REPORT OF THE ADVISORY BOARD.

Your Advisory Board appointed to establish cooperative relations with the National Research Council begs to report that on March 20, 1920, it held a conference with the National Research Council in Washington, D. C. At this meeting were present Messrs. Call, Lipman, Mooers, Piper, and by invitation Marbut and Warburton. The whole day was devoted to a full discussion of the activities and needs of the American Society of Agronomy both as regards education and as regards research. Based on the discussions at this meeting, your Board presented a formal resolution to the Council under date of April 27, 1920. A digest of this resolution indicates its general content.

1. Detailed information regarding the American Society of Agronomy.
2. The status of the Journal of the American Society of Agronomy, which showed the need for financial assistance. A request for a contribution of $1,000 annually to aid in the publication of this journal was presented.
3. Coordination of agronomic research.—Agronomic research, particularly as regards field experimentation, requires large sums of money. The present appropriations are very inadequate. The investigations, both Federal and State, are, for reasons outlined, not well coordinated. The Advisory Board believes that efficient coordination can be secured best by the mutual efforts of the agronomic investigators themselves, by: (a) better planning of experiments; (b) mutual helpful criticisms of plans for securing data and of interpretation of results; (c) providing a desirable amount of duplication; (d) removing needless duplication of efforts; (e) keeping workers informed as to projects of investigation; (f) assisting to protect encroachment on research funds. In the judgment of the Advisory Board, the efficiency of agronomic research can be doubled with the present appropriations. Some assistance in such a program will doubtless be rendered by Federal and State agricultural institutions, but additional funds are vital to the success of the undertaking. It was requested that the National Research Council appropriate $10,000 annually to attain the ends desired. It is in every way desirable to promote this project as rapidly as possible, as it can be done independent of a survey of agricultural research (see proposal 4) and will do much to assist that survey if undertaken.
4. Survey of agricultural research.—Agricultural research in the United States has, like Topsy, "just grew." From the nature of its organization, all parts being more or less interallied, and with only nominal general supervision, there is need of a broad investigation to ascertain the strong and weak points of the whole as at present developed. The Advisory Board of the American Society of Agronomy requests that this be made a special feature of the investigations of scientific research institutions now being made by the National Research Council. It would be desirable to have this investigation...