Both the botanist and the agronomist are interested in plants, but their points of view are different. The principal interest of the botanist lies in taxonomy, histology, physiology, or some subject other than the productiveness of the plant, whether of foliage or fruit. To the agronomist, on the other hand, production, or yield per unit area, is the fundamentally important consideration. The agronomist, therefore, pays much attention to varieties, with regard to both yield and quality of product and to the means whereby they may be improved. He also gives special heed to numerous other factors which affect yield, such as time and rate of seeding, soil preparation and adaptability, fertilizers, and soil bacteria. Throughout, crop yield is the central thought and is, in fact, the tie that binds agronomists together.

Every branch of science goes naturally through certain stages of development. There is the preliminary gathering of data and their assembly to try out various hypotheses, and in time the subject is placed on a scientific basis with attendant theories, mathematical formulas, etc. Agronomy has been defined as that branch of agriculture which treats of the theory and practice in the production of farm crops. This definition appears to fit the present situation, for agronomy as the science of crop yield has advanced little beyond the

1 Presidential address of the American Society of Agronomy. Presented before a joint session of the American Society of Agronomy and the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science at New Orleans, La., November 8, 1921.
2 Agronomist and vice-director, Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, Knoxville, Tenn.