I am certain that the members of the American Society of Agronomy, particularly those from the great agricultural states who come into almost daily contact with real farmers, need no statement from me as to the fundamental economic significance of thoroughgoing, productive agricultural research. To them the fact of soil exploitation rather than constructive soil utilization is all too real, as is also the waste of human energy brought about by farmers working with tools poorer than the best, and with but a scanty basis of knowledge on which to build effective practice. Unfortunately, however, your speaker is in service in an industrial state. In that state, out of a total population of nearly four million, scarcely sixty thousand earn their daily bread by working on the land; little more than half of this number rank as real farm operators. There are in the state scarcely thirty-five square rods of "improved farm land" per capita of population. The rural population, in the last census decade, showed a decrease of one-sixth, as against an increase of the same ratio on the numerically much larger urban population. It seems fitting to me, therefore, that I present to you my views on the significance to the people of an industrialized commonwealth of the work which we are doing. In making such presentation, I have also in mind the fact that other states are rapidly becoming industrialized. Even the great states of Ohio, Indiana and Missouri are no longer predominantly agricultural. Even in such strong agricultural states as Iowa, Wisconsin and Virginia, less than half of the population reported by the census as "gainfully employed" is now engaged directly in "agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry." The time is rapidly coming, if indeed it be not already here, when the service