COMPETITION AS A SOURCE OF ERROR IN COMPARATIVE CORN YIELDS.

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The conclusions which may be drawn from field experiments concerning the relative yields of corn differing in kind or treatment, appear to be so subject to the experimental technique employed that a study of methods would seem to merit serious consideration.

The sources of experimental error fall into two chief groups—accidental and systematic errors. The former can be materially reduced by replication and can be appraised to a certain extent by biometrical applications. The latter, on the other hand, are so variable in their influence upon crop growth, because of variations in the interaction of crop and environment, that their elimination is the only plausible solution.

The whole question is one of confining the difference in yields obtained to the known factor or factors of difference under investigation. If, for example, two regional strains of corn are under comparison, the difference in yield should represent the inherent relative

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