2. WHAT PROPORTION OF THE FACTS PUBLISHED BY THE EXPERIMENT STATION ARE USABLE IN EXTENSION WORK?

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When I began to think seriously about the subject assigned me for this paper I decided that a proper procedure would call for an examination of a number of annual reports of agricultural experiment stations in an effort to answer the question with some degree of accuracy. After turning through a few such reports, I came to the conclusion that such a study would be essentially useless for the following reasons: first, the whole study would be based upon my individual conception of what an extension project is; second, when an experiment suitable for station work is proposed the question “Will this piece of work if successfully concluded be adaptable to an extension project” may be, perhaps should be, wholly irrelevant; and third, ideas as to the proper subject for an extension project will necessarily change as progress in the extension field is made.

After tabulating the work reported by one station as completed, or in progress, during one year, I estimated that approximately one-half of the experiments under way had in them material that might be used for active extension projects. The other half, none the less valuable, presumably adding materially to the sum total of scientific knowledge, were nevertheless so far removed from the possibility of practical application as to be useless for present day extension purposes. Further study would, no doubt, show that much of this latter class of work is essential in the solution of other and more practical problems. The work of experiment stations must always afford the basis for extension projects dealing with subject matter. This work should, no doubt does, look forward in all instances to the solution of some agricultural problem. The final solution, however, may be in the distant future, in which case the problem is a most excellent one from

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