A RAPID METHOD OF TAKING SOIL SAMPLES
FROM FIELD PLOTS

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Last year two pasture experiments were planned to be conducted at the West Virginia experiment station. The departments which suggested the project invited the department of soils to co-operate. Two sets of 44-tenth acre plots have been laid out. Each plot measures 37 x 132 feet, inclusive of the two foot border around it. Inasmuch as there were but two persons to do the sampling, the collection of a large number of samples in the time available became a problem. The need for a more rapid method of taking soil samples from field plots was felt and experimental trials resulted in the development of the method reported here. A diagram of a plot is given in Figure 1, A. By liming quarters b and c and fencing off c and d each plot receives four treatments, viz., limed and unlimed, grazed and ungrazed. It was deemed advisable to collect a sample from each quarter. Only the surface soil was sampled. The method of sampling was as described below. It is offered as a convenient and rapid method for sampling all similar fixed plots.

FIG. 1. See text for description of each part.

A long piece of galvanized iron wire was looped, as shown in Figure 1, B, ten feet from a twisted handle and thence every eight feet.