THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SEED CORN SELECTION
BASED ON EAR CHARACTERS

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The makers of the corn score card which was formerly in such common use were sincere in their effort to improve the corn crop by drawing attention to certain ear characters which they believed to be closely related to yield. This card served to encourage an intensive study of corn and to emphasize the importance of seed selection. In the course of time, however, questions were raised relative to the value for seed selection, and therefore for corn improvement, of the characters listed on the score card. The results of numerous studies, undertaken by various investigators, were rather conflicting; but, in general, they indicated the existence of no very definite relation between these ear characters and yield.

At this stage of the situation, the investigations of Holbert, Hoffer, and others were directing attention to the corn root, stalk, and ear.

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