2. THE UTILIZATION OF LEGUMES IN THE ROTATION

B. In the Middle West

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From the standpoint of the extension agronomist, a discussion on any such topic at once brings up the question: "What arguments can I present to induce many farmers to grow more legumes?" The field man is employed to induce changes in farm practice. We are told frequently that we are teachers and that much of our time should be devoted to the study and practice of the best methods of teaching. But at present, and no doubt for many years in the future, the soundness of our methods is and will be measured by the public and by our own administrative officers by the improvement we bring about in farm practice.

With the understanding that this discussion is to deal with things other than data gathered by experiment station workers and that it has to do mainly with utilization of legumes in the rotation as it may modify the work and the modification of the viewpoint and work of extension agents, let us consider first the part taken by this class of plants in the farm practice of the past 40 years.

Almost the entire force and influence of experiment station publications during this period have been directed toward the use of legumes in rotation primarily as soil-building crops. Many pages have been devoted to carefully worked out plans and even drawings of the se-

1Paper read as a part of the symposium on "The Legume Problem" at the meeting of the Society held in Washington, D. C., November 11, 1924.

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