A SUGGESTION CONCERNING SOIL CLASSIFICATION

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A great deal of the terminology of agriculture is the heritage of the remote past. This is especially true of the terms used in describing soils and tillage because they were among the first words to be used in the literature of agriculture. Modern agricultural science and art require a more exact and standardized terminology than that which prevailed and was adequate until some 50 years ago. This need has been met in part by the coining of distinctly new words and in many cases by an attempt to standardize the meaning of words that have been handed down in agricultural literature for hundreds of years. In this latter way it has been attempted to give standard meanings to the words used to designate soil classes.

Unfortunately, as Lyon and Buckman (8) point out, some of the words have been permitted to take on a double meaning in soil classification. This leads to confusion. Those of us who have had experience in teaching soil classification fully appreciate the truth of this assertion.

The words sand and clay are used by most writers on soil technology or edaphology to designate both the soil separate and soil