years by raking the hay immediately after it is cut. In comparing the appearance and condition of this hay with hay allowed to wilt in the swath and cure in the cock, he states that he not only saved time and labor by using this system, but that this hay had a better color and retained more of its leaves. This was particularly noticeable as the hay was being fed out. Where hay wilted in the swath and later finished in the cock was thrown to the barn floor at feeding time, a large pile of alfalfa leaves accumulated; but where the other alfalfa was thrown out, it fed away very cleanly.

During 1924, hay raked immediately after cutting passed through eight rains. Each time, the windrow was merely turned with the side-delivery rake to get it loosened and off the damp ground. The next spring, this hay, coming out of the mow, was graded U. S. No. 2, by the chief federal inspector. Its color had been injured by the rains, but it retained its leaves. Hay cured in the swath and cock which went through the same weather was practically worthless.

The rapid adoption by best alfalfa growers of methods of hay making which involve the immediate raking of the hay and curing it in the shade of a windrow, and the excellent results which these farmers are securing when their hay is fed out, is striking evidence of the value of this practice. It is a practice sure to be much more widely adopted unless practical research under conditions closely approximating those in the hay field bring to light something better.—H. C. Rather, Extension Specialist in Farm Crops, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich.

REPLY TO PRECEDING NOTE

Professor Rather's criticism is concerned largely with the practical details of hay making, while the writer's entire purpose in carrying out the experiments reported was to test the correctness of two theories of hay making, expressed by Professor Rather in the article previously cited by the writer as follows: "The moisture contained within the plant is normally lost by evaporation through the leaves... Strong sunlight will quickly wither these leaves and shut off the moisture passages through which the stem moisture should move." The correctness of these theories can only be tested by laboratory experiments.

It is entirely true, as Professor Rather points out, that it makes little practical difference whether these theories are correct or not. Regardless of explanations, the only real tests of a method of hay making are the quality of hay produced and the economy of the method. Such tests can only be made in the field; but if we make