By means of this method the moisture content of a soil can be
determined in only a few minutes. At this laboratory the moisture
content of many soils has been determined in less than five minutes.
The only soils which take more time are those which are puddled and
the alcohol cannot penetrate them. Vigorous shaking or stirring
with a rod, however, hastens their breaking up.

This method seems to be absolute and not arbitrary. It seems that
it is almost as absolute as the oven-dry method. With a very sensitive
and accurate hydrometer, which is being made, the method can be
very accurate. As a matter of fact the method has a most surprisingly
high degree of accuracy as will be seen from the following repre-
sentative results as obtained from a comparison of this method with
the oven method.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soils</th>
<th>Moisture by alcohol method</th>
<th>Moisture by oven method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brookston clay loam A1</td>
<td>18.31</td>
<td>18.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookston clay loam A2</td>
<td>13.96</td>
<td>14.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookston clay loam B</td>
<td>14.52</td>
<td>15.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox sandy loam B</td>
<td>12.11</td>
<td>12.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The method ought to find a very wide application, not only in soils
work and possibly in plant tissues, but also in many other sciences
and industries. It is somewhat strange that it has not been used long
before this, because we have known its principle for so long.

A more detailed report is being prepared.—George Bouyoucos,
Research Assistant in Soils, Michigan State College, East Lansing,
Mich. (Reprinted, with additions by the author, from Science, 64:
651-652, 1926.)

METHODS OF APPLYING LIME

It is generally recognized that one of the causes of clover and
alfalfa failures on numerous soil types in the humid regions of the
United States is the deficiency of lime, especially in the A and B
horizons. Owing to the expense and labor required to add lime to the
entire tilled land, it is very difficult for the majority of farmers to
carry on a satisfactory crop sequence, except on a relatively small
percentage of their land under cultivation. It is lamentably true in
fact that only a small percentage of the farmers practice proper crop
rotation. This condition will have to be rectified soon—otherwise
there will be a great deficiency in the nitrogen content of these soils.

Several field trials are in progress at the Michigan Experiment
Station of the possibility of the use of small amounts of lime in the row
at the time of seeding of legumes as is done in the fertilization of
the small grains. The results of one set of these tests are presented here-
with. This was inaugurated in the spring of 1923. In this test, in