Forage crop improvement in the past has been largely a matter of plant introduction and the meager contributions of the plant breeder have been almost completely eclipsed by the remarkable achievements of the agricultural explorer. Although plant introduction is obviously the first step in any program of crop improvement, and although, as Piper has pointed out, this field is far from exhausted, it now seems fairly certain that many of our important forage crops will never be replaced by newly discovered foreign species. In such crops, improvement must be sought through breeding methods and it is gratifying to learn of the excellent work with various forage crops now under way at a number of stations. Professor Kirk’s account of the experience at Saskatchewan furnishes a good example of the new interest and new trend in forage crop breeding.

A survey of the literature and correspondence with experiment station workers has led to the following generalizations regarding the present status of forage crop improvement:

1. Continuous selection has not been conspicuously successful in the improvement of cross-pollinated forage crops.

1 Discussion of the Paper by L. E. Kirk on “Breeding Improved Varieties of Forage Crops” presented at the meeting of the Society held in Washington, D. C., November 19, 1926.
2 Assistant Geneticist, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Conn.
3 See preceding paper.