NOTES
A SMALL GRAIN NURSERY HARVESTER

One of the chief labor problems in the testing of small grains by the rod-row method is that of harvesting. The general practice of cutting by hand not only is back breaking, but often produces an untidy bundle and leaves a ragged stubble. When accurate gross or straw weights are desired, it is necessary that the grain be cut at an even height from the ground. There is need for a motor-powered cutter for harvesting nursery rows that is light in weight, easily manipulated, and narrow enough to cut out a single rod-row without disturbing the adjacent rows.

FIG. 1.—A front view, showing the harvester in operation. The dividers pick up leaning gain and keep out grain from adjoining rows.

The machine that was built and used at the Illinois Experiment Station during the past year consists of a 3/4 h.p., two-cycle, gasoline engine mounted over a lawn mower of the clipper type. The power is transmitted to the drive shaft of the mower by means of a belt and a system of reducing gears taken from a washing machine. The machine has a 12-inch cutter bar, has a total width of 18 inches, and weighs 130 pounds. It has a metal bottom to catch the grain and to keep dirt and stubble out of the mechanism. The cut grain is supported by a frame of hardware cloth fastened to the two dividers that separate the rows in front of the machine.