Peanuts are becoming a crop of some importance in many southern states. Their average annual farm value in the United States for the past few years is in round numbers about $50,000,000. To this figure may be added the value of the vines and roots for feed and for soil improvement. It may be confidently predicted that the acreage of peanuts will increase, for they may be grown successfully on medium or low-priced land. Also, the demand for manufactured peanut products continues to increase, and in addition, new products of various kinds are continually being placed on the market. About 80,000,000 pounds of peanuts are imported annually into this country.

Approximately 63% of the peanut acreage is harvested and the nuts sold as a cash crop, the remainder being grazed off by hogs. Since the greater part of the harvested crop is manufactured into products of luxury or semi-luxury type, quality is of first importance. This is evidenced by the fact that No. 1 peanuts are frequently quoted at a 20% advance in price over No. 2's. There is a distinct need at present for improved varieties which will produce nuts of superior quality. Also, as the peanut industry expands the demand for varieties adapted to varied conditions and to more varied uses will also increase.

Peanuts have not received much attention from plant breeders in America, but it is probable that more attention will be given to peanut improvement in the near future. Since the information available upon peanut breeding is widely scattered and not easily accessible, it seems desirable to summarize previous papers and present a preliminary report of the breeding work in progress at the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The earliest work reported on peanut breeding was done by Van der Stok (12) at the Sugar Breeding Station in Java. He made plant selections in several native and introduced varieties. By determining the average seed weight, shelling percentage, and number

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1. Contribution from the Department of Agronomy, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville, Fla. Received for publication June 30, 1930.
2. Agronomist and Assistant Agronomist, respectively.
3. Reference by number is to "Literature Cited," p. 1019.
4. Thanks are due Dr. R. M. Barnette for the translation of Van der Stok's paper.