NOTE

THE AGRONOMIST AND THE SEED LABORATORY

There is every evidence of lack of cooperation between agronomists, particularly extension agronomists, and the several seed testing laboratories. There are a few important reasons for this condition that are worthy of serious study. In some instances, the seed laboratory, often being a purely political venture, deals exclusively with seed control or enforcement of the seed law and ignores the great public service projects just at hand. In other instances, the seed laboratory apparently has not sought out, or else rejects the opportunities to reach the public through the extension agronomist and attempts to carry on its own program, and vice versa. In this connection the writer would like to interest the extension agronomist and the seed laboratory in a common program.

There is no other one commodity that the farmer uses like seed stocks with their many varieties, grades, and uses. Since seed stocks are very variable and seasonable, it would seem absolutely essential that any information or extension material gained by the seed laboratory should be extended immediately to the grower of crops. It is not enough simply to compile data in an official report after the planting season is past. Great quantities of seed stocks pass through the seed laboratories yearly, and in many instances the knowledge gained from this source is largely lost, so far as the planter is concerned.

Extension facilities are set up in each State and should be made use of constantly by the seed analyst. The seed laboratory can deal effectively with origin, variety, purity, vitality, and disease of field crop, vegetable, lawn, flower, and tree seeds, and should have full access to and cooperate with the extension forces in the respective departments concerned with these kinds of seeds. Likewise, it behooves the extension worker in those departments concerned to cooperate with and use the timely findings of the seed laboratory.

Perhaps in most states the best contact with the farmer is through the extension agronomist. There are many ways by which the agron-