NOTES

MODIFICATIONS IN THE COLUMBIA DRILL FOR SEEDING OATS AND BARLEY

The Columbia drill is a widely used and efficient implement for seeding rod-row nursery material, especially wheat. However, none of the seed cylinders in the set regularly supplied are especially suitable for seeding oats and barley. As the drums are made of a very soft malleable cast iron it is relatively easy to convert some of the extra ones for use for special purposes. A key slot chisel (cape chisel), hammer, and vise are the only tools needed.

One of the cylinders having two alternate rows of round holes may be made to serve for seeding barley and oats if each pair of holes is united by cutting away the intervening metal. This leaves a number of diagonal oval cavities which handle the long grains of barley and oats very well. If a cylinder with a large number of cavities is used and the drive chain is adjusted so that the cylinder revolves at a low rate of speed, feeding from the hopper is quite positive and seeding is done evenly. The hopper brush may be adjusted to make the final regulation in the rate of seeding. Difficulty will be encountered in sowing barley that has not been threshed clean and oats that have large awns. Oats with a heavy test weight will pass through too rapidly.

Other cylinders may be prepared for planting small plats of corn that are to be spaced in the row rather than planted in hills. For this purpose a cylinder intended for planting very small seed may be used, as the small holes will not interfere. One cavity may be cut out and the space between drops determined while running at the proper