TENTATIVE plans are being formulated for the Crops Section meetings at the annual meeting of the Society in Washington next November. It is proposed that a 3-day program be developed as follows: Wednesday, programs dealing with more technical subjects such as genetics and physiology of crop plants, and round-table discussions on special topics; Thursday morning, general program of the American Society of Agronomy; Thursday afternoon, programs on plant breeding, crops extension, and pasture management; Friday, programs on general phases of crops research, probably including a special program on southern field crops, and a joint symposium with the Soils Section on "Newer Developments in Design of Field Experiments." A symposium on soybeans has been requested, and other programs may be developed if sufficient interest is expressed.

The purpose of this preliminary announcement is to indicate the intention of coordinating the crops meetings with those of the Soils Section. The more technical programs of each section are to be scheduled for the early part of the meetings, and the more general phases for the latter part. This will permit those interested in both phases of agronomy to attend general programs on either soils or crops during the last day of the meeting. Further details will be provided later.—H. B. Sprague, Chairman, Crops Section.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. N. A. Pettinger, Associate Agronomist of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, died in the Roanoke Hospital, Roanoke, Virginia, on February 1, 1936. He had been confined to his bed with a heart trouble for the previous eight months. Dr. Pettinger came to Virginia after having obtained the Ph.D. degree at the University of Illinois in 1927. He was in charge of soils teaching and research for the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. H. K. Hayes, Chief of the Division of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota, has left for China where he will assume the following duties with the National Agricultural Research Bureau, Ministry of Industries, Shaolingwei, Nanking 10, China: (1) To advise on methods of breeding wheat, rice, cotton, sweet and Irish potatoes, and possibly tobacco; (2) to supervise a coordinated program for the whole nation in breeding these crops; (3) to advise on breeding disease-resistant varieties; and (4) to train in methods of plant breeding a selected group of Chinese field workers, most of whom have had graduate training abroad, especially in the United States. Dr. H. K. Wilson will serve as Acting Chief of Division during his absence.

J. O. Culbertson, Assistant Agronomist, Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, has been transferred from Salt Lake City, Utah, to the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. Mr. Culbertson will continue agronomic investigations with sugar beets, taking over those phases of work formerly under the charge of Dr. F. R. Immer.