NOTE

A NEW CLOVER FOR THE BLACK LANDS IN THE SOUTH

A CLOVER that is locally called "Wild European clover," or Lappacea clover (Trifolium lappaceum), has shown that it may become very valuable on the heavy clay soils of the "Black Belt" of Alabama and other southern states. This clover, so far as is known, was first found in this country in 1923. It was first found along the railroad at Snow Hill, Alabama, and was reported by Doctor A. J. Pieters in SCIENCE, Vol. 59, No. 1515, pages 39 to 40, in 1924. It was sent in to the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture for identification from Mississippi in 1926. In 1929 one plant was found in a field of oats near Marion Junction, Alabama. At present this farmer has 230 acres of land with this clover on it.

In 1935 it was found on a farm near Montgomery, Alabama. At present this farmer has about 40 acres in the clover. In 1938 many other scattered patches of the clover have been reported over various parts of the Black Belt.

The plant is a creeping annual with a dense pubescence on the leaves and stems. On good soil it reaches a height of 18 inches. It produces a large yield of hay and is an excellent pasture plant. It produces an abundance of seed which are a little larger than those of white clover. It reseeds when pastured or when cut for hay. The seed germinate in the fall and the plant reaches a height of 4 or 5 inches in February. It makes rapid growth in the spring and dies in June. It is not known how far north it is cold-hardy, but it has never been killed by cold in middle Alabama. A few seed are available for distribution by the Agronomy Department of the Alabama Experiment Station to experiment station workers who may be interested in testing it in an introductory way.—D. G. STURKIE, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn, Ala.