NOTES

"AGROPYRON JAPONICUM" IS A. SEMICOSTATUM

The writer in a recent issue of this Journal (Vol. 37, pages 319–321) rather too hastily followed Tracy and Scribner in identifying the name Agropyron japonicum Tracy with a species of Brachypodium. Agnes Chase, Custodian of Grasses, U. S. National Herbarium, has written that since the publication of Hitchcock's Manual of the Grasses of the United States in 1935 (page 774), a "Specimen has been found with Vasey's script 'Agropyron Japonicum V. Cult, in California from New Zealand, originally from Japan. (Collector) E. J. Wickson, Berkeley, Cal. 1888'. A description in Vasey's script is pinned to the sheet. The specimen is Agropyron semicostatum Nees. Three more specimens cultivated in Washington, D. C., in 1889 and 1890, one grown by S. M. Tracy, Starkville, Miss., in 1889, 'seed from California', all named 'Agropyron japonicum', and one grown by A. B. Leckenby, Yakima, Wash., labeled "Brachypodium japonicum" are all A. semicostatum, and had long ago been distributed in the Old World cover of that species and were overlooked." Also, that "This species has been found on ballast at Portland, Oregon."

Comparison shows the above specimens are the same as the Wickson specimen in the Agronomy Division Herbarium, University of California, Davis, Calif., of which the Wickson photograph was taken.

In addition to Ball (this Journal, Vol. 37, pages 660–661), it is suggested by Chase that the name Agropyron japonicum Tracy is at best only a "nomen seminudum" and not sufficiently implemented, in spite of the descriptions and illustration, to invalidate A. japonicum Honda. Since only the identification of the names involved is of particular interest to agronomists, a fuller discussion of the point is omitted.—A. A. BEETLE, Division of Agronomy, University of California, Davis, Calif.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE METHOD USED IN WETTING A SOIL

AGRONOMIC research often involves experiments in which different initial soil moisture contents are necessary. The data presented below were obtained from such an experiment. Nichols' method of atomizing water with steam pressure was used to obtain the various moisture levels. The spray was directed on an air-dry sample of Brookston clay which was previously screened through a

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1 Contribution from the Ohio State University and the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Columbus, Ohio.