extent, the book represents a theoretical study and that "it is neither a compilation of recipes for attractant and repellent substances nor a manual on insect control". While this may be true if the entire subject is considered, the reviewer finds presented much practical information and some recipes for baits that should be of value to many investigators. The book is well written and judiciously illustrated with 69 figures. The format and binding are excellent.—F. Z. HARTZELL.

TWO BLADES OF GRASS: A HISTORY OF SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE


HERE is a story-book of the U. S. Department of Agriculture written from within. The author first came to the Department in 1910, and for many years was editor of scientific publications in the Office of Information.

He writes of his acquaintances and associates without jealousy or eulogy, but with a straight-forward interest in their research and contributions. Emphasis is on the work not the men.

To attempt to parade the great names and works of the scientists that have come and gone through about 100 years, or of those that are still with us in an institution that today has a "staff of over 2,000 persons" at Agricultural Research Center alone is no mean task to crowd into a readable book. Harding has done a good job of it.

The book is really a history of agricultural research in America, because in one way or another some U. S. D. A. scientist was associated with most investigations whether done at the state experiment stations or at the nation's capitol city.

The U. S. D. A. started as a Division of Agriculture in two basement rooms in the Patent Office on May 15, 1862. Henry L. Ellsworth as Commissioner of Patents during 1836 and 1837 "at his own expense and without Congressional authorization, distributed seeds and plants gratuitously transmitted to him for the purpose". "He believed that a 10 per cent increase in wheat yields would provide the nation with an additional income from 15 to 20 million dollars annually". He asked Congress "to provide funds for collection and dissemination of agricultural seeds, plants, and statistics" continually to 1840 when Congress voted $1,000 for agricultural purposes. But free seed was not the answer that only scientific work could supply. Ultimately it became a disgrace, as certain heads of the Department declared, but did not cease until June 30, 1923".

Harding shows fairness in his dealings with the great names. Of Isaac Newton, the first Agricultural Commissioner, he says "Yet, however careless of ethical considerations Newton sometimes was in his clerical appointments his scientific appointments were uniformly men who had good professional standing and ranked with the best of their day".

This history is fascinating and holds one's interest, because it is like a kaleidoscope. Names and achievements roll out of each chapter.