THE AGRONOMIST IN HIS RELATION TO THE FARMER.¹

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The agronomist has inherited from his predecessor, the professor of agriculture or the agriculturist, what is probably the widest field possessed by any scientific worker. In fact, the field is so broad that even the term agronomist is likely soon to become obsolete and we will have the soil expert or the expert in plant breeding and crop production. Already in many institutions these specialists now have their place.

The field of agronomy is so broad that no one would attempt to be an expert in all the lines of work offered. There is no department in the college or experiment station which occupies a more important rôle in its relation to the practice of farming than does agronomy. The success of every type of farming is dependent upon proper agronomic practice. This, combined with good business ability, is the important factor toward success in dairying, fruit growing, poultry industry, and, in fact, every type of agriculture. Successful dairying is only in part a matter of devising balanced rations and proper feeding of the dairy cow, but it is just as largely a matter of economic crop production, proper soil management, economy and wisdom in the use of fertilizers. While the spectacular part of fruit growing

¹ Presidential Address, Sixth Annual Meeting, Washington, D. C., November 11, 1913.