YOU will appreciate the fact, I am sure, that one with a much shorter span of teaching experience than mine might well have been invited to consider with you this subject:—Fifty Years of Resident Agronomy Teaching. Those responsible for the organization of this program had in mind the general developments and trends in resident teaching through these 50 years, rather than any personal experiences and possible contributions by any one person, even though he had been a part of this field of interest throughout all of that 50-year period.

It happens that the circumstances are such as might appear to give credence to the old adage that goes something like: "All Things Cometh to Him That Waiteth, If He Waiteth Long Enougheth At the Right Place." For, in 1906 and 1907 it was my privilege to assist with the Farm Crops instruction in the Agronomy Department at the University of Illinois under the direction and inspiring leadership of Dr. A. N. Hume, who later was in charge of Agronomy at the South Dakota State College for a number of years.

Broad Fundamental Training

It was generally recognized in those earlier years of the Society that many of us had not received the broad training in the fundamental sciences necessary for the effective solution of the many difficult problems that the future most certainly would present. The Presidential address of W. M. Jardine in 1917, said in part, "In the past, leading men in agriculture have not always been well-trained. Because of natural ability, practical experience, and the fact that the subject was imperfectly developed and had many pressing problems of a very elementary character, these men with limited training have in some cases achieved notable results. The problems of the future will be more difficult and the meager training of the past will not suffice." I wish that we had time to give recognition here to some of those individuals who encouraged young men of outstanding ability to go on for graduate training and give themselves to educational and research efforts. But time will not suffice.

Organization and Teaching Methods

The very earliest recorded actions of the Agronomy Society show a recognized need for attention to teaching methods and to the subject matter to be presented. Standing committees on the organization of course material and methods of instruction reported year after year; with numerous papers presented by individuals at annual meetings or printed in volumes of the Society.

Our much-loved and revered Dr. M. F. Miller, of the University of Missouri, under whose tutorage I was privileged to serve in my first teaching years, and S. B. Haskell, Director of the Massachusetts Agricultural Station, reiterated it vigorously, again and again. It seems that this criticism had something to do with a presentation by W. M. Jardine, when president of our State College, said "Our crops courses are cheap," and it appears to give credence to the old adage that goes something like: "All Things Cometh to Him That Waiteth, If He Waiteth Long Enougheth At the Right Place." For, in 1906 and 1907 it was my privilege to assist with the Farm Crops instruction in the Agronomy Department at the University of Illinois under the direction and inspiring leadership of Dr. A. N. Hume, who later was in charge of Agronomy at the South Dakota State College for a number of years.

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