ONE of my colleagues, when asked to comment on my proposed talk about our Society and the future, gave highly qualified approval of the title, but said it would be well, in the opening sentence, to differentiate between the Agronomy Society and the Great Society.

I am happy to be able to report to you that I believe the American Society of Agronomy is in good condition. We seem to be accomplishing our objectives. Our publications are respected and are widely distributed. We are meeting our financial obligations. We have a very effective and cooperative Executive Secretary and an efficient Headquarters staff. We are growing rapidly, and most importantly, the spirit of cooperation in the Society seems to me to be very good.

To maintain a favorable status as we grow into the future, however, will certainly require willingness and ability to make the necessary changes to keep the Society abreast of the times. I hope you will not think I am depreciating our illustrious past or our successful present if I take a few minutes to mention some changes that I think might be considered for our Society in the future. I shall dwell only briefly on these, and I shall number them to help you in making the transitions.

Suggestion No. 1

No picture of the future is complete without a computer in it. I suggest we proceed with all deliberate haste to make use of the prodigious memory, recall and print-out capabilities of the modern electronic machines for expediting our mailing and accounting operations. Such services are readily available and are in use by other societies. Our membership has more than doubled in each of the last several decades. The volume and complexity of our operations are already overloading the capacity of our new Headquarters building. One obvious relief for this overload is to modernize our methods.

About a year ago, I arranged an invitation for Dr. Stelly to visit the Headquarters of the American Electrochemical Society in New York City to inspect their compact, automated operation. This Society has fewer members than ours, but membership, subscription, election and publica-

Suggestion No. 2

I believe it might be helpful if the Board of Directors of our three associated societies would adopt, such as the following: "RESOLVED THAT the ASA, CSSA, SSSA, in their cooperative relations, each retain necessary independence for fulfillment of individual objectives and that beyond this, there must be a pattern, then, at convenience over a period of time, to harmonization existing among the three societies of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA."

While this statement of intent may not appear to change things much at the moment, over a period of time it have an important influence in the right direction, especially if maximum advantage is to be taken of computer service. At their meeting last month, I took occasion to talk with their controller about how they made the transition. It was his suggestion that the computer program can best be done by a committee of our members who are familiar with the structure, traditions, and profession of our societies. I recommended that a committee be constituted and that the work on a computer program be seriously commenced.

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Historically, the Agronomy Society, being of origin and acquirement of assets, natural senior role and the Soil and Crop Societies as senior affiliates. But now, these Societies have achieved a stature and independence, enabling them to act and to require treatment as equals. They have acquired the stature and independence, enabling them to act and to require treatment as equals. Their subscription returns containing dues, are intercepted and recorded by a bank, with no service charge if the balance exceeds a specified minimum. Dr. Stelly has proposed talk about our Society and the future, gave...