The phrase "principles of agriculture," or a verbal equivalent of the same, is one that has frequently been used by writers interested in the advancement of agriculture. The search for or the elucidation of these principles has often been urged as the highest function of the agricultural investigator. Curiously enough no one seems ever to have pointed out just what is meant by a general or fundamental principle in agriculture. Nor has any one enumerated as such those already known or accepted. It is true that more than one book bears some such title as "Principles of Agriculture," but upon examination one is quickly convinced that the title is merely a euphonious label.

Inasmuch as no one has attempted to enumerate in a list the principles of agriculture, there exists doubt as to just what these principles may be. Not that there is obscurity to the meaning of either the word "principals" or the word "agriculture,"—but that there is much haziness as to which generalizations may properly be called principles of agriculture. It is, of course, important that these be well recognized if it be true that the highest function of the investigator is to establish or to elucidate such principles.