A few attempts have been made to compare the quantity of grass produced when it is cut frequently and when it is allowed to mature for hay; in other words, to approximate the relative yields of pasture and meadow. The results of some experiments at the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station are presented here as a contribution to the knowledge on the subject. Before discussing the Virginia data the writers wish to review some of the work done elsewhere.

At the Michigan station in 1894, Crozier reports that one plat of orchard grass containing one-twentieth of an acre was cut seven times between April 26 and June 8. Another of the same size was cut for hay on June 8. The seven clippings gave 29 pounds of dried grass; the plat cut once produced 100 pounds. The experiment was repeated in 1896 with the plats reversed. One cut four times between May 4 and May 26 gave 60.9 pounds of dry grass; the other cut only on May 26, 112.5 pounds. A plat of timothy one by six rods in size clipped eight times between April 30 and June 24 gave 15.76 pounds of dry grass, while a similar plat cut on June 24 for hay gave 172 pounds. The percentage of crude protein in the frequently clipped timothy was 22.62, while in that cut for hay it was only 7.81.

These results have often been quoted to prove that pastures are not as profitable as meadows. There is one serious fault, however, with this experiment from the standpoint of contrasting pasturing with hay making. In each instance the clipping stopped the same day that the other plat was cut for hay. As a rule grasses and legumes that are kept grazed or cut through the spring will continue green and will grow on throughout the summer, while the aftermath on grass meadows cut for hay is slight.

In an experiment reported by Joulie one plat of mixed grasses and clovers one year old cut twice gave a yield of 5.57 tons of dry hay per acre. A similar plat cut six times made a total of only 3.59 tons per acre.

1 Presented by Professor Carrier at the meeting of the Washington (D. C.) Section of the American Society of Agronomy, February 17, 1915.