SOILS COURSES AT THE IOWA STATE COLLEGE.

PERCY EDGAR BROWN,

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY, IOWA STATE COLLEGE, AMES, IOWA.

Prior to 1902, the soils work at the Iowa State College consisted of one brief course in soil physics. In that year the work was more definitely organized as a subdivision of the Agronomy Department and Professor W. H. Stevenson was placed in charge. Four distinct courses were then outlined by Professor Stevenson: Soil physics, soil fertility, special problems in soil physics, and special problems in soil fertility. In this early work general principles governing soil physics and fertility were taught and emphasized by laboratory experiments and special problems involving some original investigations, either from the physical or fertility standpoint, were assigned.

These four courses in soils have formed the foundation upon which has been erected the structure of the present work in soils. Professor Stevenson has since become professor of agronomy and vice director of the agricultural experiment station, but he has always retained an active interest in and close association with the soils work. Much of the advance which has been made in the arrangement and teaching of the soils courses is due to his continual devotion to the work and to his untiring efforts to give students a thorough understanding of all the principles underlying soil fertility in its relation to permanent agriculture.

In response to the demand for more thorough training in soils and in accord with the increasing mass of knowledge regarding soils which has been accumulated from such a variety of angles, the original four courses have been added to, until now some thirty-odd courses in soils are required of or offered to undergraduate and graduate students in agriculture at this institution. Five more or less distinct groups of soils courses are now recognized, depending upon the particular factor which receives the emphasis in the work. These groups are soil physics, soil fertility, soil bacteriology, soil surveying, and soil management. Undergraduate and graduate courses have been outlined under these headings which involve quite distinct work.

The soil management work is presented by Prof. Stevenson, the

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