REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VARIETAL NOMENCLATURE.

The Committee on Varietal Nomenclature was first appointed at the annual meeting of the Society held in Columbus, Ohio, in November, 1911 (Proc. Amer. Soc. Agron., 3: 20. 1911). The present chairman at that time read a paper, in which he pointed out the prevailing confusion in regard to varietal names of crop plants. This statement was based on a study of some 500 samples of oats collected from experiment stations and seedsmen, which showed very clearly that the same name was often applied to several different varieties.

The committee, however, was not able to offer a practical plan or solution, although the situation was studied. A brief article was reported by the chairman at the meeting of 1914 (Jour. Amer. Soc. Agron., v. 7, no. 1, p. 29. 1915), with comments by the editor (p. 40). At this time the desirability of establishing some sort of official registry was suggested. Later an article by Dr. W. C. Etheridge (Jour. Amer. Soc. Agron., v. 7, no. 4, p. 186. 1915) was published, emphasizing the present confusion in regard to the nomenclature of oats, of which the following is an extract:

"The material from which this description was drawn is included among about 700 so-called varieties and duplicates collected for classification from 40 experiment stations and 53 seedsmen. Among 36 lots bearing the name 'Swedish Select,' from 22 stations and 8 seedsmen, only 23 are alike; and these constitute the variety here described. Of the 22 stations 6 were growing varieties other than Swedish Select under that name. Of the 8 seedsmen 2 were selling other varieties under the name 'Swedish Select.' In a few cases several widely different forms had been grown as Swedish Select by the same station. Among 13 lots which did not conform to the type, the forms ranged from varieties closely resembling Swedish Select to side panicle oats and, in one case, to Red Rustproof.

"On the other hand, the Swedish Select form occurred among the 700 lots under 93 different names and variations of names, while most of these names were in turn applied to other different forms. Frequently the misnomers were 'pedigreed' or 'selected' numbers of various experiment stations. In other cases, such popular names as National, Lincoln, Roosevelt, President, Banner, Twentieth Century, Golden Fleece, and Prosperity were applied to the Swedish Select and to other different forms as well."

Finally, at the Berkeley meeting in August, 1916, the committee made a rather full report, reviewing the very encouraging progress that had been made during the past three years on the classification of economic plants, and pointing out the need of devising some plan for making more practical use of these studies.

The principal value of the committee's efforts so far has been to call attention to the present condition, to stimulate interest, and to collect opinions as to some practical plan which might be adopted for improving the situation. After due consideration the committee wishes to offer the following report, together with certain resolutions, for the consideration of the Society.

SUGGESTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

1. Registration of Varieties.—Discussion in the past has led to the general conclusion that some plan of registration for all known varieties should be worked out, with provision for adding new introductions. The registry would be something on the plan of a herdbook, with a history and description of each variety.