THE RELATION OF THE VIGOR OF THE CORN PLANT TO YIELD.1

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Low yields of corn are generally attributed to poor seed, insufficient plant food, careless cultivation, or to a combination of these factors, but another condition in the development of a field of corn may affect the yield. It is well known to close observers that considerable variation exists in the size and vigor of the corn plants under average conditions in the field. These differences are more noticeable when the plants are only a few weeks old; as the crop develops they are more or less obscured. To what extent this variation in the size of the plant affects the yield has not been seriously considered or reported on. It is generally assumed, however, that the less vigorous plants fall below the average in yield. Not long ago the writer had the opportunity of observing the behavior of a large number of plants through the growing season and of finally determining the actual yield.

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