of plain water, which contains hydrogen and, therefore protons. Surrounding the bottle is an electrical coil connected to a control box. The magnetometer is usually operated by two people, one of whom moves the bottle from point to point, while the other sits at the control box. To make an observation, the controller presses a button, shooting an electric current from a storage battery through the coil, deflecting the protons in the bottle; when the current stops, the protons oscillate, creating a feeble alternating current in the coil. This current flows back to the control box, where its frequency is measured, giving the strength of the magnetism surrounding the bottle."

The more organic matter there is in the soil profile, the more magnetism is present to influence the oscillation of the protons. This may be a valuable tool for soil geneticists.

-Ed.

VIRGINIA AGRIC. EXPER. STA. BUL. 538

The picture on the front cover of Bul. 538, "Soil Survey for Urban Planning and Other Uses" by S. S. Obenshain, H. C. Porter, and R. E. Devereux is startling. It is not a picture of a first rate crop doing well under excellent management. It is a picture of a failure...failure of a brick dwelling, the walls of which are cracked and gaping because the house was built on a soil of unstable characteristics.

Soil Erosion in the LEVANT

A. Reifenberg's book on the RISE AND FALL OF AGRICULTURE IN THE LEVANT, Jewish Agency Publishing Dept., Jerusalem, 1955, is reviewed by Dan H. Yaalon in the spring bull. of the International Soil Sci. Soc. Resume. These writers believe that when the wealth of the cities ceased to be sufficiently shared with the agricultural enterprise in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, then disastrous soil erosion occurred and water formerly used in transpiration by the open woodland was allowed to run off the land and, particularly, down cracks in the limestone bedrock. When old silted-up wells and reservoirs are cleaned out today,