The committee on forest and organic soils has no radical proposals to offer. If it succeeds in being inspirational even in a small degree, and succeeds in calling to the attention of the Association an opportunity, which it should not let pass by, to widen the scope and usefulness of our particular branch of soil science it will, in the minds of its members, have fulfilled its function. We have to admit that practically all of our soils investigational work has had a strong economic and practical slant. The possible application to farming and farm crops has colored and directed most of our work which we refer to as scientific and research. However, we have not given very much thought to the application of our work to trees as a crop in the manner that we have to wheat, corn, cotton or other farm crops. Possibly our work can have a value to the forester or silviculturalist and can be justified from the economic or practical point of view as well as from the purely scientific. The fundamental facts accumulated about soils in the field and laboratory are as applicable to silviculture as to agronomy, but in the specific application of pedology to forestry some modification of procedure may be advisable.

Our suggestions are included under three lines of work which are properly within the province of our branch of science, namely: (1) classification and mapping of soils; (2) correlative laboratory work in relation to the horizons of the soil profile; (3) material included in the Soil Survey report.

The profile is as basic in forest soil studied as in any other soils investigations. The committee suggests that greater attention be given to the study of the profile at its two extremes, the surface veneer, largely organic, and the deep substratum, because of the importance of the first in seed germination, and seedling survival of the second to root penetration, tree anchorage, moisture and plant nutrients. It is suggested for purposes of detailed observations that the surface veneer, which is commonly designated simply as "organic layer", "forest mold" or humus", be divided into separate parts as litter, mold and humus and that proper distinctions between them be made. It is regarded as important also that a distinction be made between litter, mold and humus on the one hand and the superficial layer in some forests which is properly raw humus or peaty in nature. But until some chemical method is devised, the committee can only make the suggestion that such distinction be based upon the relative freedom from inorganic matter, very high water content or very high moisture holding capacity, texture and perhaps certain color tints which are peculiar to peats.