That differences exist in the relative abundance of particular species of trees, or that definite associations of geographic significance occur, is a proposition which can be easily confirmed by observation in any forested region which presents a range in altitude and diversity of topographic forms and drainage. Silviculturists commonly explain local differences in forest growth on the basis of differences in site. But perhaps after all, site, in its implications, is not far from being the equivalent of a soil group, soil type, or soil phase depending upon the refinement of classification. A great number of environmental factors are recognized by ecologists and silviculturists, but in the last analysis local differences in vegetation can be correlated with differences in moisture and temperature. Moisture and temperature are also controlling factors in determining the nature of the soil, and since plants obtain the greater part of their nutrients from the soil, the logical conclusion is that the simplest and soundest basis of correlation in the matter of distribution is with the soil. A perfect correlation, presupposes the existence of complete ideal soil maps, which we know are not in existence. However, that more or less close relations do exist, between soil types, as at present established, and natural associations of plants, we know from both extensive and detailed observations of a great number of investigators. In some instances the criticism is made that such correlations are forced, because vegetation itself was employed as a criterion in the soil differentiation. Where this criticism is valid, it simply means that these particular correlations are subject to doubt. On theoretical grounds a correlation should exist where the soil is differentiated on the basis of intrinsic characteristics.

Granted that a dependable relation does exist between soil types and types of vegetation, the thought follows that it might be feasible to reconstruct the forest cover, and other vegetation also, where this has been obliterated over extensive areas by agricultural operations, fire and lumbering, by projecting the original vegetational cover, according to the distribution of soil types which would be known from soil maps. In putting this idea into actual practice certain stipulations have to be made. A strictly scientific soil classification and accurate soil mapping is presupposed, since manifestly the reconstructed