One definition of the word “standard”, and perhaps the one most nearly pertinent in this present connection, is in part as follows: “That which is established by authority, custom, or general consent, as a model or example.” A discussion of soil standards could very well be divided into three parts:

I. Factors or characteristics to be observed or stressed in establishing the standards.

II. Methods of establishing the standards, whether by (a) authority, (b) custom, or (c) general consent.

III. Methods of preserving and disseminating information regarding the soil standards.

Taking samples by selection of material from natural soil layers or horizons is, of course, now the common method of soil sampling in the United States, and is used for correlation purposes by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, and in collecting samples for the Soil Survey, both in the United States and in many foreign countries. Of course numerous photographs in black and white have been made of soil profiles, and in many cases hand-colored photographs appear in a few European publications. Hand-colored photographs, made by several soil workers and reproduced, colored or uncolored, could well be made of photographs of soil profiles.

Drawings and sketches of soil profiles have been made for 50 years or more, and have been published in many publications in the United States and in many foreign countries. Two such sketches, which bring clearly the main soil horizons, “A, B, and C,” appear in many publications in the United States. Of course numerous photographs in black and white have been made of soil profiles, and in many cases hand-colored photographs appear in a few European publications.

Miss Bessie Hooppaw of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, has very successfully colored and enlarged photographs of soil profiles. Large colored or uncolored, could well be made of photographs of soil profiles.

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