Analysis of some of the earlier, later and present day soil survey reports presents some interesting comparisons indicative of the development in the science of soil surveying and in the art of presenting the data accumulated in the field, from which it is believed some pertinent suggestions may be gleaned.

The first of these, written during the experimental and early formative stages of the soil survey were without precedent or prescribed uniform method of treatment, or were suggested in scope, style or form by few previous publications of such character. Nevertheless they mark what will some day be recognized as one of the milestones in the development of American agricultural research, though in the light of present day standards of conciseness, definiteness and uniformity they leave much to be desired.

In the discussion of physiography and geology which in the earlier reports is accorded the place of a distinct chapter, there is a tendency to dwell too much upon problems of regional physiographic development and geologic history, and to give too meager a discussion of such features in relation to soil formation, soil differentiation and soil utilization, a questionable practice from which we are not yet entirely divorced.

Discussion of Agriculture in the earlier reports is reserved for the last under head of a general chapter on Agricultural Methods. In the western surveys additional chapters on Water Supply for Irrigation, Underground and Seepage Waters, Alkali in Soils, and Alkali Land Reclamation are frequently included, in which some of us have plunged into discussion of highly technical problems in considerable detail. In some cases predictions were freely made as to future status with regard to alkali problems, based upon incomplete or unreliable data, and which have resulted later in harmful criticism. It might be said in passing that it now appears that the specialists in the physics and chemistry of alkali soils and alkali land reclamation, have by their own confession found so many things yet to be learned that there is a tendency in present day soil survey reports to discourage attempts to discuss the problem with finality, or to enter far into predictions for the future, and to confine treatment of this subject to a simple statement of facts as regards amount and distribution of alkali accumulation as indicated by field tests and visual evidences.

In the earlier of the reports there is no general chapter on Soils, or discussion under this head is incomplete and inadequate; and under description of soils there is but little indication of color, structure,