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THE JOURNAL  
OF  
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

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EDITORIAL.

THERE are at the present time about twenty-five Agricultural Colleges in Great Britain, most of which have grown up during the last ten or twelve years. These institutions are equipped with permanent laboratories and each has its own skilled staff; most of them possess an experimental farm, and all conduct field experiments with the co-operation of farmers. Many of the County Councils employ experts who lecture in agriculture and agricultural science and conduct field experiments within the area of the county. There are also a number of men who have recently taken service in India or in our Crown Colonies, and are there engaged in scientific work of an agricultural nature, but who possess no common outlet for the publication of their investigations. Now that the preliminary difficulties of organisation are passed, these workers are at liberty to turn their attention to research in Agricultural Science, and as a result a considerable amount of valuable material of a definitely scientific nature has begun to appear in College Journals and County Council Reports.

College Journals and County Council Reports have however but a restricted circulation, and are very generally neglected outside the immediate area for which they have been written, and as these reports are intended for the general reader and for circulation among farmers of all classes, scientific matter must be presented in a very untechnical form. This often results in the omission of the data necessary for

a critical appreciation of the subject; at the same time scientific papers are lost sight of amongst a mass of other work of purely local or temporary interest.

There is not in this country any general channel for the publication and discussion of scientific papers bearing on Agriculture. These papers are often too technical for publication in the journals of the societies devoted to pure science, and are not sufficiently popular for inclusion in the Journals of the Board of Agriculture or of the leading agricultural societies. The promoters of the present publication therefore consider that the time has come for the issue of a Journal devoted wholly to definitely scientific papers on agricultural subjects, containing:

(1) Original papers. The scope of the Journal will be quite catholic, it will welcome equally papers on biological subjects,—Botany, Zoology, Bacteriology, etc. and on Chemistry, Physics or Geology, provided the question bears on Agriculture. The papers must, however, represent original work; reports on the results of demonstration plots, or manurial and variety tests of an ordinary commercial character will not be admitted, nor papers dealing with general farming as distinct from agricultural science.

(2) Occasional *résumés* or critical articles on recent advances in the various branches of Agricultural Science, and notes on the more important papers appearing in British and foreign agricultural journals.

(3) Short notes from contributors who may wish to put on record exceptional cases, analyses, etc., which do not require a full paper.

(4) Articles from Indian and Colonial workers descriptive of soil, climate and other conditions under which agricultural operations are carried on in tropical and semi-tropical countries.

(5) Reviews and discussions. It is hoped that the Journal will furnish an opportunity, lacking hitherto, for the discussion of the work in agricultural science which is being carried on in this country.

The Journal is thus mainly intended to circulate among agricultural teachers and experts, farmers and land agents having an interest in the scientific side of their profession, agricultural analysts, seedsmen, millers, manure manufacturers, etc., in this and other English-speaking countries. The idea of starting such a journal was mentioned and informally discussed at the meeting of the Agricultural Education Association on Dec. 8th, 1903, when about thirty members from various colleges, all engaged in agricultural work, were present, and it met with unanimous approval.

The success of the agricultural sub-section at the Cambridge meeting of the British Association in 1904, also showed that ample material existed for which it was desirable to find a common and permanent means of publication.

The Journal will be issued, as material accumulates, in parts of about 100 royal 8vo. pages. Each volume will consist of four parts, the price to subscribers being 15/-. Papers for publication should be sent to T. B. Wood, M.A., University Department of Agriculture, Cambridge. Contributors will receive as an honorarium 25 off-prints of their paper free. Additional copies may be obtained at cost price if ordered when the proof is returned.