

# SCIENCE

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GENETICS AND BREEDING<sup>1</sup>

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ONE of the primary purposes for which the American Breeders' Association was founded was to bring together on a common ground those who were approaching the problem of the improvement of plants and animals by breeding, on the one hand, from the side of practical breeding, and, on the other hand, from the side of the scientific study of heredity. One of these groups stands as the representative of the art or craft of breeding, and the other as the representative of the science of genetics. That each of these two bodies of men has something to learn from the other there is no doubt. Even with the continued and prosperous existence of such an association as this it is certain that actually there is far from being anything like as extensive a mutual interchange of knowledge and opinion between science and practise in breeding as would appear from every point of view to be desirable.

It will have been perceived by all who have followed my remarks so far that they have been commonplace to the point of utter banality. They constitute a thoroughly bromidic introduction to a conventional treatment of that time-stained and battle-scarred old theme of compulsory oratory, the relation of science and practise. Every one can foresee, with a moment's reflection, just what ought to come next, and next, and on to the end. At the outstart should be set forth the great achievements

<sup>1</sup>Papers from the Biological Laboratory of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, No. 44.

Address of the retiring chairman of the Animal Section of the American Breeders' Association at its Columbia, S. C., meeting in January, 1913.