

SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE BOTANY IN RELATION TO AGRICULTURE¹

It is the aim of this discussion not merely to show the relation of botany to agriculture, but also to point out on the one hand what botanical investigation has actually done for American agriculture, and on the other, how recent agricultural development has stimulated the science of botany along both educational and investigational lines.

Though much of its practical application passes under such titles as agronomy, horticulture, animal and dairy industry, and soil technology, scientific agriculture depends primarily upon the three fundamental sciences of chemistry, zoology and botany. Of these, botany should and does have the closest relationship with it. This is indicated by the fact that out of 5,500 persons concerned with agricultural teaching and investigation in the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the various agricultural colleges and stations, about 700, or 12 per cent., may be classified as botanists.

There are botanists, however, who are so engrossed in the pure science of their subject that they have little interest in its economic, or, what to-day is almost the same thing, its agricultural relation; on the other hand, there are those working on the practical side who do not appreciate how much the pure science of botany has aided them in their work. We have no quarrel

¹ Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section G, Botany, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Columbus, December, 1915.