SCIENCE

VOL. LXI FEBRUARY 27, 1925 No. 1574

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal.

Annual Subscription, $6.00. Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter July 18, 1923, at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

THE BETTER ADAPTATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND INVESTIGATIONAL EFFORT TO THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION[1]

I

OUR subject takes us at once to the very heart of the agricultural college movement. A more important subject in relation to agricultural progress could hardly be stated.

In a single brief paper one can touch only a few of the outstanding phases of the question. Sometime before very long, let us hope that a thorough study will be made of agricultural research and education as now conducted in the land grant colleges. This should be done by persons who are familiar with the land grant education movement and who understand the needs of the country. These institutions have been operating about half a century, some of them longer. They have endeavored to adapt themselves to ever-changing conditions and demands. They have made countless changes in curriculum and in subjects of investigation, in response to pressure of the moment. The original legislative acts have been supplemented repeatedly. Conditions throughout the country are changing rapidly and now are vastly different than when the first laws were passed. Problems have multiplied. Numerous other agencies have been created to do work that relates more or less directly to the work of the land grant institutions. And we have learned much from experience.

Before we can satisfactorily answer the question as to how well agriculture is being served by its special institutions in all the states and what changes should be made, there should be a study of the basic laws, financial support, the physical plants, the personnel in service, policies, the results obtained, the industry itself and the difficulties, drawbacks and needs encountered by farmers; and there should be an effort to look into the future. The whole problem should be studied with the purpose of better fitting the work of the institutions to the needs of the times. This would mean the reduction of some phases of work, the elimination of other, and the magnification of some and the development of some new activities, all in the interest of better service to agriculture.

There is good precedent in the recent study of medical education financed by Rockefeller funds and

[1] Address of the retiring vice-president of Section O—Agriculture—the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, December 31, 1924.