

cation of the results obtained, which is wholly committed to the attention of others more directly interested.

In England, but little attention has been paid to such work on the part of Government, so that such as has been carried on has devolved upon private individuals. A most conspicuous case of this kind is to be found in Rothamsted, where since 1843 a most important series of investigations has been conducted by Sir James Lawes and Dr. J. H. Gilbert. But here again the aim is scientific, not practical, although in the extensive field experiments we find an admirable combination of the two. The results obtained contain an elucidation of some of the most important laws governing the growth and nutrition of plants, ranking high as scientific achievements.

But because in Germany and England the aim is scientific and not practical, it cannot be said that these institutions fail to fulfil the objects for which they were established—promotion of the agricultural interests—and that agriculture suffers in consequence. Far from it. For though the reduction of such results to practice may result in a slower rate of progress, yet is that progress of the most substantial character.

In the United States, where the experiment stations are of recent origin, they have multiplied with great rapidity, until now every State of the Union possesses one or more. Because of their number, rapidity of development and extent of country, as well as the very diverse interests, agricultural, political and personal, to be satisfied, also owing to the want of properly trained officers to conduct the work, these institutions exhibit all grades of efficiency. In some, the scientific basis has been the leading idea from the outset. In others, the immediate reduction to practice of half-gathered facts, and thereby the cultivation of an unstable popularity with the farming community, has dominated all other considerations. In all these stations the scientific work is unduly hampered by the continual performance of mere routine work, such as is involved in the analysis of fertilizers, the identification of plants, testing