

it be to expect a bountiful harvest from seed that is inferior or immature.

In order to obtain reliable information on the importance of selecting the seed to be sown, a great deal of careful work has been done on the experimental grounds of the College. Selections of large, medium, and small seeds have been made in the different varieties of cereals, and an equal number of grains from each selection have been sown on plots under similar conditions, in order that accurate knowledge of their relative productiveness might be obtained. These experiments have been carried on for several years, and it has been found in every case that the large seeds produced a much better crop than the medium seeds, and the medium ones a much better crop than the small seeds. Experiments have also been conducted where the selections have been made continuously for a number of years; that is, the large grain for one season's crop is selected from the crop grown from the large seed of the previous year, the medium and small seeds being selected in the same way. After several years' experiments, it has been found that the grain grown from the large seed tends to increase in size each year, while that grown from the small seed became more inferior each year.

We often hear a farmer remark that a certain variety of grain, which he has been growing for a number of years, has become what he calls "run out," and that he must secure fresh seed from some other locality, thinking that grain which has been grown on a different soil will do better than that grown on his own farm for some years. While there may be something

in the contention that grain improves if transferred from one kind of soil to another, it is evident that the trouble lies chiefly in the lack of selection of the seed sown from year to year, and could be remedied by securing seed from some one who has exercised more care in selection. We frequently see advertisements telling us of some wonderful new variety, the seed of which some seedsman offers for sale at an exorbitant price. If we secure some of this seed we will often find it to be very similar to some good old variety which we had grown ourselves a number of years previously, but which was dropped because it had "run out." The new variety for which we pay a fancy price, and with which we usually get a fancy name, is in many cases none other than some old variety which has been improved by a few years of careful selection and then sold to us as the most productive variety ever known.

Without any appreciable increase in the cost much better seed grain might be sown each year. The farmer who takes his seed from the crop of the previous year might, by a little additional care in cleaning, add very materially to the returns from his harvest. On the average farm there is sufficient spare time during the winter months in which the work could be done without any interference with the regular work. By putting the grain carefully through a fanning mill, and then sifting it through a sieve with a large mesh, the largest grain would be obtained for seeding, and the remainder would have its feeding value decreased but very little.