

sent to eleven laboratories.

The Orchard grass sample was prepared by first removing all crop and weed seeds. The purified sample was then divided into eleven parts. A known number of impurities were added to each part. Orchard grass was chosen to determine what variation might be expected in the inert matter obtained from a sample so prepared. Two laboratories found somewhat higher amounts of pure seed and less amounts of inert matter in their tests than the remaining laboratories. The germination results varied considerably even though all laboratories followed the same method of testing.

The tabulated results of the Orchard grass referee sample indicate that we need to obtain more uniform germination results, as well as more practice in the separation of inert matter.

The Crimson Clover sample was chosen to give the laboratories experience in determining the weak and broken sprouts often encountered when testing this kind of seed. The results obtained by the participating laboratories compared favorably in both purity and germination. Apparently the cooperating laboratories closely followed the rules for seed testing.

Reports of referee tests during the past year show that each sample was selected for a definite purpose by the Regional Chairmen. A laboratory that fails to cooperate in making referee tests is missing a golden opportunity of obtaining help and experience with difficult separations and testing procedures. They are also missing an opportunity of discovering if incorrect testing techniques are being used, and running greater risk of criticism because of reporting test results that do not agree with those obtained by other laboratories.

The Committee was unable to work on a number of problems suggested for research during the past year. It is suggested that the next year's Committee review recommendations made in papers presented to the Association in recent years and check the practicability of suggested rule changes through referee tests. Problems requiring research in addition to the referee tests should be delegated to existing or newly appointed Sub-committees. - W. D. Hay, Chairman

RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

At the 1952 annual meeting this Association approved a recommendation that there be a discussion of proposed changes in the Rules for Testing Seeds at the 1953 meeting with the view to revising the rules in 1954. In view of this action the committee has made preparation for a full discussion of proposals. The work of the committee can be summarized as follows: (1) An explanatory announcement soliciting suggested changes in the rules was prepared and sent to all official laboratories and to the Secretary of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists. The announcement was also published in the News Letter of our Association and in the Seed Technologist News; (2) the proposals were screened, edited, and arranged in the order to which they apply to the rules; (3) the proposals were mimeographed and the 20-page circular was mailed to all official laboratories for study prior to the Lincoln meetings. A supply of the mimeographed proposals was also sent to the Secretary of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists. A place has been provided on the Agenda of the 1953 conference for a discussion of these proposals. The committee will plan to publish a proposed revision of the rules during the next year, in sufficient time so formal action can be taken on the rules at the 1954 meeting. - O. L. Justice, Chairman

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

The past year, the Public Service Committee embarked on a rather ambitious program of education, promotion and advertising that unfortunately, at least to date, falls considerably short of hoped for objectives.

It is within the power and province of this organization, through its Public Service Committee, to chart the course of seed activity in all phases. The worth of this organization to the producer, processor, seller or buyer of seed and to its own members, depends on its educational or public service activity. Abraham Lincoln packaged the line of thought very neatly when he said, "With public sentiment nothing can fail, without it nothing can succeed; consequently he who moulds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes and decisions. He makes statutes and decisions possible or impossible to be executed."

We are continually being reminded of shortages in the sphere of seeds. There is

1. The Research Committee shall initiate, coordinate, supervise, and conduct research that will lead to improved methods and practices in seed testing. The work may be conducted by members of the Research Committee or by subcommittees in accordance with Article V of the Constitution. The Research Committee should publish the results of its studies preferably in the Proceedings and when adequate information is obtained make recommendations for changes in the Rules for Testing Seeds.
 2. The Referee Committee shall initiate, supervise, and conduct referee tests, either regionally or for the entire Association, for the purpose of promoting more uniform application of prescribed testing and analytical procedures and to check the value and reliability of new and proposed methods. The results of the referee tests shall be duplicated and circulated to the participating laboratories in tabular form.
 3. The principal function of the Standardized Test Committee shall be to interpret the rules for seed testing in those instances where clarification and amplification are needed. Conclusions reached by the Standardized Test Committee must be approved by the Association before they become effective. The Standardized Test Committee may also study research data bearing on problems of interest and make recommendations to the Rules Committee if justified by data, to the Research Committee for further study, or to the Referee Committee if further checking of methods is needed.
- B. Renumber the remaining five paragraphs from 4 to 8.
- C. In Paragraph 7 (new number) delete the words "and Regulations" in the first line and delete the words "and Recommendations" in the second line.

Amendments proposed by Dr. O. L. Justice. - W. H. Darst, Chairman.

STANDARDIZED TEST COMMITTEE

The report of the Standardized Test Committee consists of the following recommendations:

General Recommendations to the Association:

- A. That the money made available by the A.S.T.A. for the purchase of master copies of color slides should not be used on this purpose. That purchase of duplicates of these slides should be made directly from Mrs. Frieda L. Wertman by the laboratory or individual desiring them.
- B. That Mr. Erickson be permitted to continue his efforts to obtain mill service on the A.O.S.A. approved blotter. If Mr. E. L. Erickson or the Standardized Test Committee cannot obtain any definite action by the next annual meeting this project should be dropped.
- C. Purity Analysis interpretations:
 1. That crop seeds (e. g. crucifers, alfalfa, etc.) which have started to germinate should be classed as pure seed.
 2. That crop "seed" be entirely ergotized or replaced by a fungus before it should be classed as inert material.
 3. That grass "seeds" with discernible caryopses should be classed as pure seeds. Grass "seeds" without discernible caryopses should be classed as inert matter.

Recommendation to the Rules and Regulations Committee:

1. That sterile florets of oats need not be detached from fertile florets but that the entire unit may be classed as pure seed. - L. E. Everson, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF NOXIOUS-WEED SEEDS

Seeds which are normally distinguishable may at times be so altered by immaturity or processing that they defy positive identification and, because of natural variation, certain seeds of closely related species cannot always be distinguished with certainty. When in doubt between a noxious weed and some other similar-appearing species the analyst, to be on the safe side, must sometimes resort to the questionable practice of labeling such a seed as the noxious species.

To ascertain the degree of accuracy which may be attained by competent seed analysts a survey was made of official and commercial laboratories, selected at random,