

## FOREWORD

Agricultural science in New Zealand must be very largely directed towards the needs of the farmer. As more and more farmers look to crop production as a source of income, the need for research and advice in this field increases.

Current research in agronomy is endeavouring to meet these needs. Such research not only covers studies of factors affecting the production of crops already widely grown in New Zealand but also investigates the possibilities of crops relatively new to the farmer. The potential for crop production on soils and in districts other than the traditional cropping areas must be determined. All this calls for a new look at agronomy by workers in the field - by the plant breeder, the entomologist and soil scientist, the specialist in weed science and the agricultural scientist. New farm management systems will need to be devised and in studies of these systems the agricultural economist will play a part.

Arising from this new emphasis on agronomic research has been a realisation of the inadequacy of present means of consultation amongst scientists interested in agronomy. The formation of an Agronomy Society has become urgent. It is also clear that the present outlets for the dissemination of the results of research in agronomy are inadequate. More publications devoted to agronomy are needed and this is one of many matters that an Agronomy Society could sponsor. This new addition to scientific organisations in New Zealand should fill a vital role in the development of agricultural research in this country.

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