

**RURAL SCHOOL AGRICULTURE;
EXERCISES FOR USE WITH ANY
TEXT-BOOK OF AGRICULTURE,
OR WITHOUT A TEXT-BOOK**

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Rural school agriculture; exercises for use with any text-book of agriculture, or without a text-book by Charles W. Davis

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CHARLES W. DAVIS

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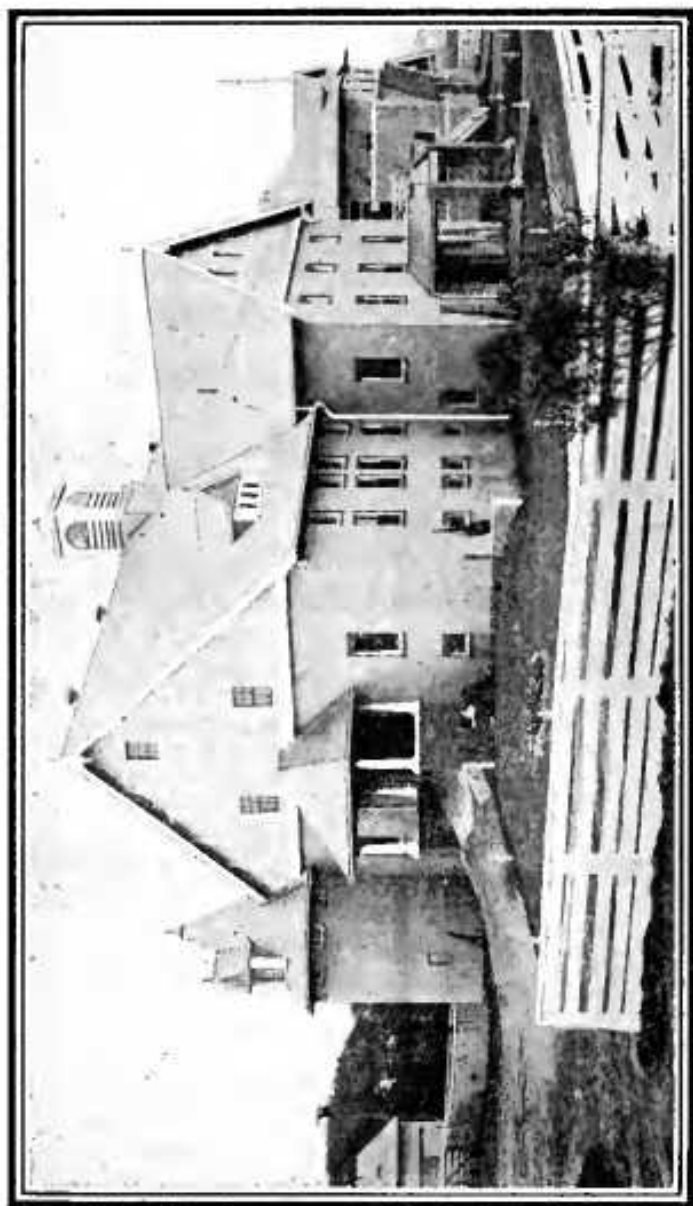


FIG. 1—MODEL BARN OF THE IOWA EXPERIMENT STATION (SHOWING ROUND SILO)
(Photographed by Stayner)

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Rural School Agriculture

EXERCISES FOR USE WITH ANY TEXT-BOOK
OF AGRICULTURE, OR WITHOUT
A TEXT-BOOK



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BY

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TO
THE MEMORY OF MY BROTHER,
W. A. D.
IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR BOYHOOD DAYS
ON THE FARM

PREFACE

In the preparation of this little book two classes of students have been considered by the author. First, there are those who expect to become teachers in rural schools where agriculture is required, and who have had little training in agriculture, not only in the subject matter, but in methods of presenting the subject to students. This book then is designed in part for the training of teachers in normal and summer schools. The greatest barrier in the progress of agricultural education in rural schools is the lack of thoroughly trained teachers in agriculture. Secondly, there are those in rural districts, the majority of whom will continue to live upon the farm, and whose minds should be awakened to the fact that the problems of the farm are great enough to enlist all the brain power they can summon. Let us once establish in the mind of the farm boy an intellectual insight into the problems of the farm, and the ever increasing exodus of the most enterprising young men of our rural districts to the city will be checked.

This book is a manual of exercises covering many phases of agriculture. Feeling that in many instances the so-called nature study has been largely sentimental and urban in its leanings, the exercises have been prepared with a view to enlist the interest of the boys of the farm. The successful farmer of the future must be an experimenter in a small way. This work should begin in the public schools. Students should be taught to think, and to

work out some of the principles of scientific agriculture. If an experiment helps the pupil to think, or makes his conceptions clearer, then it fills a useful purpose.

The French minister of education, in giving instructions "to assist the masters of rural elementary schools in teaching the first rudiments of agriculture," says: "Instruction in the elementary principles of agriculture, such as can be properly included in the program of primary schools, ought to be addressed less to the memory than to the intelligence of the children. It should be based on the observations of the every-day facts of rural life, and on a system of simple experiments appropriate to the resources of the school and calculated to bring out clearly the fundamental, scientific principles underlying the most important agricultural operations. Above all, the pupils of the primary school should be taught the reasons for these operations, and the explanations of the phenomena which accompany them."

The author desires to acknowledge especial obligations to Prof. C. H. Mathes, of Maryville College, for reading the proof of the whole book and for valuable criticisms; to Mr. B. F. Williamson, for many new drawings. Thanks are due to many others for illustrations used, for which special credit is given as they appear. His thanks are also due to Prof. J. M. Johnson, of the University of Georgia, for many valuable suggestions.

CHARLES W. DAVIS.

DAHLONEGA, GA., 1907.

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