bers of the staff upon Maryland agricultural topics. In this connection may be mentioned the establishment by an act of Legislature, in 1896, of a Department of Farmers' Institutes at the College and Station. The work of this department is fairly under way, and in the 24 meetings which have been held during the past winter in various parts of the state, most gratifying success has been met with. By the organization of this department the College has greatly increased its sphere of usefulness to the farmers of the state, for whose benefit it was especially created.

THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

The Experiment Station of Maryland was called into existence as a result of an act passed by the 49th Congress and approved March 2, 1887. This act appropriated $15,000 annually to each state for research work in agricultural and kindred subjects. The act did not directly carry an appropriation, so it did not become operative until the 50th Congress made the necessary provision by an act approved March 6th, that the Maryland Agricultural College should be the beneficiary of this fund. The experiment station by this act became a department of the College, and this connection of the College with the Station is a matter of no little advantage to both institutions. As above mentioned, it was so far separated from the College in 1892 as to be placed under a special director, who is immediately responsible to the board of trustees.

The work of the Agricultural Experiment Station is defined by the second section of the act, which is as follows:

"Sect. 2. That it shall be the object and duty of said experiment stations to conduct original researches or verify experiments on the physiology of plants and animals; the diseases to which they are severally subject, with the remedies for the same; the chemical composition of useful plants at their different stages of growth; the comparative advantages of rotative cropping as pursued under varying series of crops; the capacity of new plants or trees for acclimation; the analysis of soils and waters; the chemical composition of manures, natural or artificial, with experiments designated to test their com-