DISCUSSION

During the conference there was a considerable amount of discussion on almost every paper. Following are some items of interest brought out in the discussion and not elsewhere covered in the Proceedings:

1. European studies have shown that self-pollinated Scotch pines produced less seed and less vigorous stock than those which were cross-pollinated. Some observations on red pine in Lower Michigan indicate that self-pollination results in reduced seed production.

2. Longevity of pine pollen depends on relative humidity and temperature. With these under proper control, pine pollen can be stored for a year or more.

3. The distance to which viable pine pollen may be dispersed depends upon wind velocity, topography, and other factors, but usually is not over 300 feet and seldom over 700 feet.

4. Hybrid stock usually can be distinguished in nursery seedbeds. This makes it practical to develop seed production farms in which different species can be planted so that they will cross-pollinate each other. The seed can then be sown in the nursery and the hybrids sorted at the time of lifting. Other than hybrids, however, it may not be feasible to make genetic selections in the seedbed.

5. Weevil-free eastern white pines have been found in stands where weevil damage is severe. These are trees with thin shoots. Material from these trees is being grafted on to badly-weeviled orchard-type trees to test their resistance to weevil attack.

6. The Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company obtains their spruce seed from designated trees which are then felled during logging operations, usually within 50 to 75 miles of the planting site.

7. There is a real need for more research in seed production.

8. Present cutting practices in aspen may be favoring inferior growing stock by leaving smaller trees.

9. Foresters need some easily interpreted guides for recognizing superior trees in the field.

10. Insects and diseases often limit the extent to which trees can be introduced into new areas. Sometimes trees relatively resistant to insects and diseases in youth may lose their resistance as they grow older.