

organic matter and nitrogen ; most of them contain the elements of fertility, viz. : nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, but are inferior to swamp muck in organic matter and nitrogen. They need to be supplemented with stronger manures.

He says in his last report :—These muds have been largely used in the Maritime Provinces as a fertilizer, and good results as a rule have followed the first applications. It has been the experience of many, however, that the beneficial effects are not lasting, and that after a few years there is but little response from a repeated dressing when applied as the sole manure. This is not to be wondered at, since these muds are not complete fertilizers and cannot furnish all the plant food in the proportions required by farm crops. To a certain extent they supply the elements of fertility and also act on many soils as stimulants, but they must not be considered as concentrated manures, nor should they be used exclusively. As far as possible, they should be supplemented with more assimilable and stronger manures. Barnyard manure, superphosphate and wood ashes are probably the easiest to obtain and the cheapest for use with these muds.

Coal Ashes as a Fertilizer.

613. SIR,—Do coal ashes possess any fertilizing properties at all, or are they worthless for fruit trees?
E. E. McNUTT, *Truro, N. S.*

Coal ashes possess some value as a fertilizer, but it is very little. Their chief benefit is mechanical. When applied to the surface of the ground, they are an excellent mulch, and when worked in they render the heavy soils looser in texture, and, consequently, more porous to the beneficial action of the air. On light soils they have no value whatever except as a mulch.

Paris Green and Stock.

614. SIR,—Would it be injurious pasturing in an orchard where Bordeaux mixture and Paris green combined were used for spraying?
A. E. SHERRINGTON, *Walkerton.*

Formerly, in the application of these poisons, we had grave fears that the grass underneath the trees would be rendered poisonous to stock feeding upon it, and we carefully shut out all animals from the orchard until some heavy rains had washed the grass clean. Latterly, however, we have come to the conclusion that the amount of poison which reaches the grass is so infinitesimal in quantity that it could have no injurious effects upon the stock which is feeding upon it. Our horses have had free range of our orchards during the spraying season for the last two years, and no injurious effects have been apparent. We would be glad to hear from our correspondents whether any one has has a contrary experience.