ingredients have no doubt been selected with skill, and an animal may be expected, and not unreasonably, to thrive on such savoury substances. For this precious article (which it unquestionably is) the modest sum of 42s. a cwt. is demanded, or at the rate of £42 a ton, upwards of 200 per cent. on the cost price; even taken at the valuation given above, which for the one-tenth or stimulating portion might be considerably reduced, if the several materials were bought at wholesale prices. We prefer, however, to take the ordinary trade reduction, in order to give the widest margin possible for the cost—this, after all, being the simple point at issue. If a farmer wishes for the article, the use of which, containing as it does so much stimulating matter, is very questionable, and chooses to pay from three to four times the intrinsic value, it is, of course, at his option to do so; but as the whole question of farming is one of paying, we will put it plainly,—can it pay to feed animals on substances costing from £40 to £50 a ton? A knowledge of the constituent elements of these foods may induce a pause before the outlay is made. Competition, we perceive, has of late sprung up in the manufacture of these cattle foods, and the price has consequently declined. Thorley, the original manufacturer, not only advertises to an extraordinary extent, but publishes a yearly almanac, and a weekly paper, for the express purpose of puffing his productions.

Trials of Bone Dust Manure.

EDITOR OF AGRICULTURIST.—In 1854 I procured ten bushels of bone dust from Toronto, and applied it to turnips, at the rate of fifteen bushels to the acre, along with about half the quantity of barn-yard manure. The piece was carefully marked, the rest of the field being manured with the usual quantity of barn-yard manure. The turnip crop showed no improvement whatever, but the following crop of wheat showed a marked improvement, and the following barley one still more. The next two crops were clover, and they both showed distinctly where the bone dust came to. After that the field was summer fallowed, but the difference in the last crop was not so marked.

In 1858 I procured four bushels of bone dust and tried it on turnips again. They showed a marked difference this time at the start, but unfortunately when they were nearly meeting in the drills the grasshoppers came and stripped them completely, but the bone dust showed its beneficial effect on the two following crops.

Cobourg, 1861. R.

[With respect to the action of bones, much will depend on the character of the season, and the degree of fineness to which they are reduced. Half inch bones will occupy a long time in dissolving, as they decompose but slowly. For turnips, and where immediate action is required they should be procured in the finest possible state, and if treated with sulphuric acid, forming what is called a super-phosphate of lime, their action will be much expedited. Mr. Lamb, of this city, keeps bones for sale, reduced to different degrees of fineness, and we have heard of many instances in which farmers supplied by him have experienced results quite as satisfactory as those above detailed. Our correspondent, who is a good practical and observant farmer, sends us the following information on this subject from a late number of the *Mark Lane Express*. We shall be happy to hear from those parties to whom bone dust was supplied from Mr. Lamb's establishment under the superintendance of the Board of Agriculture two years ago, stating the result of their experience. —ED.]

BONE MANURE.

This is universally considered one of the best kinds of manure that can be applied to the land, whether for corn, grass, or root crops, and its extensive and increasing use is a proof of the estimation in which it is held. Not only are the bones of those animals slaughtered in this country employed as manure, but nearly 80,000 tons per annum are imported from foreign countries, chiefly for the same purpose, and yet the supply is by no means equal to the demand. Had not the importation of guano commenced about the year 1840, it is probable that bones would have risen to £10 or £12 per ton.

"That bones must be beneficial as manure," says Mr. Nesbit, in his pamphlet on Agricultural Chemistry, "will appear from a very simple consideration. Animals are fed upon vegetables, and the whole of their bodily structure grows out of the food, or is eliminated and formed from it. If the food did not contain phosphate of lime, the bony structure of the body could not be built up. If the soil in which vegetables grow did not contain phosphate of lime, the seeds of vegetables could not be matured.—Supposing the arable land of this country to have been robbed for a thousand years of phos-