

and lined with firm plastic clay, may be used when no proper vessel can be procured. An old sugar hogshead, however, with about a third of its length cut off, and the seams secured by a coating of pitch, asphalt, or plaster of Paris, makes a first-rate vitriol vat. In the first place, 48 gallons of water should be poured over the bones, and after allowing them to remain together for an hour or two, that the pores of the bones may be penetrated by the liquid; 133 lbs. of strong vitriol should be added, as the exact quantity required should be ordered from the manufacturer, to avoid the trouble of weighing and pouring from vessel to vessel, which would otherwise be necessary. When the acid has been added and the violent effervescence has ceased, the mixture should be occasionally stirred up; for which purpose a two-pronged fork may be conveniently used. As the fumes which are given off are exceedingly unpleasant, the vessel should be placed under a shed, at some distance from the dwelling-house. In about three days the solution will be ready for mixing with charred peat mould, saw-dust, or any convenient substance; or it may be diluted with fifty or sixty times its bulk of water, and applied with the manure-cart. The quantities given above will be sufficient to prepare manure for a statute acre, and if used with half the usual quantity of farm-yard manure, which is a plan highly to be recommended, in convenient situations—there will be a sufficient supply for two acres.

The farmer will remember, that where vitriolized bones are the only manure applied, the addition of some alkiline substance will be found a judicious practice.

### WOOD ASHES.

The virtue of ashes as a dressing for all crops, is, we think, not properly appreciated by a great many, who live by tilling the soil. It is everywhere and on all crops, except perhaps clover, worth as much as plaster, and, on some, far exceeds it as a solvent and stimulant of vegetation. Its action is palpable to the most careless observer in its effects, and the manner in which it acts, is of easy explanation, which is more than can be said of plaster.

In the first place, potash is one of the most deliquescent salts, or has ability to attract moisture. A lump of potash, when dry, is as solid and hard as a well burned brick, but when exposed to a damp, or night air, it nearly doubles its weight and becomes a liquid, so great is its attraction for watery vapor. This is one of its features, but its great and important function is the supply of silicate of potash—siliceous sand dissolved in potash—to form the glazing of straw, hay, cornstalks, and various other vegetable structures, without which no cereal crop can be perfected.

Some soils, particularly clays, contain a sufficient portion of this material, until they become worn and effete. Ashes are most beneficial on sandy, loamy and gravelly soils, that do not contain mineral potash, or its elements. When compared with plaster, the only objection to the profitable use of ashes is its easy solubility—heavy rains dissolve and carry off the potash beyond the reach of the plant; while plaster being insoluble, its action is not destroyed by water.

In this region, wood ashes are about eight cents per bushel; while the price of plaster at the mill is about twelve cents, and the drawing it several miles to be added to its cost; which if our position is correct as to the value of the two manures, it behoves the farmer to make and save all the ashes he can; especially for the corn crop, for which it is unanimously admitted to be worth more than plaster. The custom is now generally prevailing, to mix them together, producing a very striking effect. It has been suggested that broadcast sowing of ashes is equally efficacious with application to the hills, and we are disposed, from some experiments exhibited, to give credence to that course, if double the quantity is so applied.

With leached ashes, the effect is not as quick, nor as apparent on crops as unleached; but their action is longer felt when treble the quantity is used. They contain siliceous sand in a firm and impalpable state, and some potash and lime, ready for solution. Siliceous sand being artificially nearly insoluble, except by the fluoric acid, a substance very sparingly produced by nature, and then in a neutral combined state.—*Rochester New Yorker.*

**SODA FRIED CAKES.**—One cup of milk, two of sugar, three eggs, two teaspoons of cream tartar, one of soda.