The Home of

Using Soil Nitrogen.

Most soils contain large quantities of ni-trogen, but it is in forms which are quite useless as plant food. In many cases rich loamy lands contain as much nitrogen as average farmyard manure, yet a sm plication of available nitrogen greatly increases the crop-making power of the soil. Many experimenters have shown that average soils contain enough nitrogen to grow full crops for 100 years, yet a ood crops can-not be made without more or less. frequent use of manure of some kind.

The reason is that the merogen in the soil

is in a form which tenaciously resists the action of natural solvents. If this were not true, the earth would be sterile as a natural condition and forests could not exist. Even when manured freely the soil converts much of the nitrogen in the manure into forms almost useless as plant food. Lawes and Gilbert, experimenting in England, applied fourteen tons of barnyard manure for eight years in succession, and then cropped the same land for twelve years more without further applications. All the nitrogen refurther applications. moved in the crops for the full twenty years amounted to only a little over oneyears amounted to only a little over one-sixth of the nitrogen applied as manure. It was found, however, that when mineral salts of potash and phosphoric acid were used, a much larger quantity of the nitro-gen made crops—though the farmyard manure itself contained ample supplies of potash and phosphoric acid.

It appears that tillage alone will not an-

swer to get the inert nitrogen of the soil into active form. Storer describes in this connection an experiment made in which a moderately rich soil was treated with various potash and lime salts, such as kainit, muriate, and sulphate of potash, gypsum, lime, and carbonate of lime, the results showed that the potash salts made available about eight times the quantity nitrogen which could be gotten from the soil without such treatment, and that some of the lime salts also had a useful effect. Similar experiments have shown that phosphates also have the power of making inert soil-nitrogen useful as plant food.— [Correspondence Country Gentleman.

44 * * Profit and Loss in Cows.

It takes pretty good management in feeding and care of stock and in handling the milk to secure fair profits on the butter nade, even from the better grades of cows. But no management, however skilful and scientific, no ration, however well balanced can make the production of butter from a very large number of the cows as we find them on average farms, profitable at all. Many—a great many—of the cows in the country do not fully pay for their keep. That is a deplorable fact and from the study of station and other reports I find that there are many such unprofitable cows, even among those that are considered of good blood, and among the thoroughbreds. In a table published by the North Carolina Experiment Station, for instance, I find the results of experients in keeping sixteen cows in Half of these cows gave a net profit of from \$4.52 to \$39.36 a cow, while the other half gave a net loss ranging from 92 cents to \$15.86 a cow. The value of the butter was estimated at 25 cents a pound. At the prices which a large number of farmers receive for their butter almost all these cows would have given a net loss. This shows the great need for weeding out dairies. We keep far too many unprofitable cows.

The bulletin says on this point :
"From the above notes and the 'tables showing condensed record of the cows on the experiment farm it will appear plain to every reader that there are some cows in this herd that do not pay for their food. This has been apparent for some time, but some have not been culled out before the end of this year's record in order to give time, after the trouble from epizootic abortime, after the trouble from epizzonic abortion was over, for cows to resume a normal flow of milk, thus avoiding hasty judgment and consequently erroneous work. A strong example in this line of feeding at cost should set farmers to thinking, and

apply rusry, AN,

weighing feed and milk, and using the Babcock tester in earnest."—[Farm and Fireside.

A Poultry Experiment.

January 1, 1896, we began a series of exriments to determine, if possible, what effects, if any, heating the poultry-house would have upon the production of eggs and the food requirements. On December I we put forty-six chickens, including several varieties of birds, into the poultryhouse. The weather at that time was quite warm, and they were fed per day pound of feed in the morning and two ands in the evening, the morning feed being table scraps, such as meat, pieces of bread, boiled and fried potacoes and such material as usually comes from a boarding-table. Their ration of grain consisted of wheat screenings, which was composed principlly of wheat and cracked wheat. As the weather got colder, their food gradually increased until they took on the 31st of December eleven and three-fourths pounds of scraps in the morning, and eleven and a half pounds of wheat in the evening. Dur-ing the month of January the feed ration remained about the same.

January 20 a large stove was put into the house, and a fire started with lignite coal. On the 31st of January the feed had decreased to six pounds in the morning and eight and three-fourths in the evening. The last of March four and a half pounds mornings and four and three-fourths even-ings. The total amount of fuel burned from the 20th of January to the first of April cost \$4.50.

During the month of January previous to the use of the stove, the average number of eggs per day was 2¼, the remainder of the month, from the 21st to the end, it was 6 3-11, showing the infinence that heat

was 0 311, solving the innecession and exerted upon the production of eggs.

The question naturally arises, can the farmer, under the conditions existing on the ordinary farm, afford to take care of his poultry by furnishing artificial heat? An examination of the above figures shows that but half the food is consumed, and that the egg production is more than doubled. With eggs worth 25 cents per dozen at this season of the year, and food at the ordinary prices, it should seem to me that it would not only be seem to me that it would not only be economy to heat the poultry-house, but would be a sourse of great profit, especially after arrangements had once been completed, so that it would require but little extra work.—[Bulletin North Dakota Experiment Station.

Vienna newspapers amounce that Japan between 1895 and 1905 will have devoted 193,000,000 yen to the building of warships. Forty-seven have already been ordered, with short terms of delivery, in England, France, Germany and the United States.

Miss Clars Barton, president of the American branch of the Red Cross Society, left Havans for New York Wednesday on the Key West mail steamer. Miss Barton says the cause of her departure is purely personal and has to do with private financial matters.

TWO IN ONE FAMILY.

A Woman Saved from the Knife.

I, E. HARRINGTON, certify that I suf-fered with RHEUMATISM in both should-ers the greater part of last, summer. In the autumn Mr. J. H. Barnstead induced me to try EGYPTIAN RHEUMATIC OIL, two applications of which completely cured me.

two applications of which completely cured me.

My wife had, for twelve years, been afflicted with a gathering in the neck, which used somtimes to swell up as large as a hen's egg and become very painful whenever she took cold. We consulted three or four doctors, who said an OPER-ATION would be necessary. We thought we would first try EGYPTIAN OIL, and are thankful to say that since using that the lump and pain have entirely disappeared. That was three months ago, and we consider that she is cured and recommend Egyptian Oil to all similarly afflicted.

E. HARRINGTON.

Halifax, March 5, 1898.

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Jessie Johnston Rockwood, Ont.,

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