

to be lost sight of. A farmer might better bring peat several miles for the foregoing purpose than not to have it. In an ordinary family, as many as five loads of a kind of poudrette can thus be made, not as concentrated nor as portable as the article bought under that name in our cities, but sufficiently so for home use, and excellent for any soils except peaty, and for any crops except it may be for potatoes and other roots. For cabbages, wheat, corn, or clover, it would be first-rate. If used for corn, and especially if used as a topdressing for old mowing, it would be well to apply plaster plentifully with it. I know of nothing that will bring up red and white clover on an old mowing like it.

Many families make use of chloride of lime as a *deodorizer* or *disinfecting agent* about the privy. They pay for it in ten or twelve cents a pound; and, at that, it is ineffectual unless used in considerable quantities. Peat is cheaper and better. When peat can not by any means be obtained, black, vegetable mould from the edge of the wood, or wherever great quantities of leaves have drifted together and decayed, will answer. If this cannot be obtained, there is a sort of home-made chloride of lime, which can be prepared easily, and is worth more for agricultural purposes than it costs.

To prepare it, take one barrel of lime and one bushel of salt; dissolve the salt in as little water as will dissolve the whole; slack the lime with the water, putting on more water than will dry slack it, so much that it will form a very thick paste; this will not take all the water; put on, therefore, a little of the remainder daily, till the lime has taken the whole. The result will be a sort of impure chloride of lime; but a very powerful deodorizer, equally good, for all out-door purposes, with the article bought under that name at the apothecary's, and costing not one-twentieth part as much. This should be kept under a shed or some out-building. It should be kept moist, and it may be applied wherever offensive odors are generated, with the assurance that it will be effective to purify the air, and will add to the value of the manure much more than it costs. It would be well for every farmer to prepare a quantity of this and have it always on hand.

Again, he says:

Night-soil should be removed to the land every spring. Its value, as a fertilizer is greatly increased, if mixed with six or eight times its bulk of dried peat or swamp mud. Its value would be still more increased if the peat or mud, in a dry state, could have been thrown in with it daily, or once in a few days during the previous year; and this either with or without (better with) a little plaster, would have prevented the smell from that source, which is too often noticed about premises. *Poudrette* can be prepared in this way at little expense, and quite as effective as much that is offered in market at a higher price. Night-soil is valuable for grass-land, and for all kinds of grain. In whatever form it is used, it should be spread thinly over a large surface, rather than be put in large quantities in one place.

There is another article to which the last remark applies with great force. It is old plastering from the walls of rooms. This contains silicate of lime, and what is of more value than all the rest, *nitrate of lime*. This last is a very soluble salt, and is so valuable for any of the grain crops, but more especially for wheat, that not a particle of it should be lost. Every ounce of old plastering should be put upon the field. Even the rubbish of old brick walls should be pounded up and put upon the land. But this and old plastering should be spread thinly over a large surface. Probably a ton of either, if mixed with a compost that was to cover five acres, would benefit the first year's crop more than five tons spread on a single acre.

Whether the new occupant of this farm should go largely into the use of plaster, is a question for him to settle on the ground. He should, at any rate, have some on hand to use about manures. There is a strong presumption in favor of plaster on a farm upon which nothing is known of its effects by experience. He should inquire of his neighbors. If their testimony is against the use of plaster in that region, *let him not believe it*, but let him make the trial for himself. He may make it on a small scale at first, so as not to injure him much if it fails. If, on the other hand, the testimony of the neighborhood is favorable to the use of plaster, he might take it as undoubted. A hundred neighborhoods have testified falsely against the use of plaster in their particular location to where one has over-estimated its value. Very few are the locations where plaster is not worth the purchase-money, or more.

It is very true that plaster cannot be relied upon alone. It is not a manure in the fullest sense of the word. It contains but two ingredients, and those are not all that plants need. Plants could not grow in plaster alone, but that does not prove that they should have none. The truth is, *it acts partly as a manure*—feeding the plants with its sulphuric acid and lime, the very ingredients which clover, corn, potatoes, and some other crops, largely require—and *partly as a stimulant*—hastening, by its lime, the decay of vegetable matter in the soil. In other words, *it feeds the plant a part of their food, and it hurries the vegetable matter in the soil to feed them more*. On dry soils it performs another important office—that of *attracting moisture*. Some say it has not this effect. I know very well that in its unaltered state it has not. Set an open barrel of plaster in the air, and it will remain dry. But it does not long remain unaltered about the roots of plants. The sulphuric acid and the lime part company, and in their transformations they perform the three offices I have described—*feed the plants, convert half-decomposed matter into vegetable nutriment and attract moisture from the air and from the sub-soil*. This last office is important on lands that are dry. On wet lands it should not be used till they have been thoroughly drained.

Plaster will not do well permanently without other manure. It requires that organic matter should be present. In pastures, this is supplied by the droppings of the cattle and by the