

Mr. T. Greiner, who is a constant contributor to the *Farm and Fireside* on agricultural chemistry under the *nom de plume* of Joseph, says, that his method has been to make a large rubbish heap in early spring in some out of the way place, and when this is set on fire he places upon it all the bone accumulations of the year. The ashes which result are then all carefully applied to the land, the value of the wood ashes being largely increased by the added phosphoric acid from the bones which have been consumed; but the phosphoric acid will be better economized by the previous method than by allowing the bones to burn entirely to ashes.

A recipe for fermenting whole bones with horse manure, is described in *Storer's Agriculture* as follows: Soak the bones in water for several days, then pack them in a dung-pit layer with horse manure, taking care to moisten each layer with the water in which the bones have soaked, and with other water as well. Each layer of bone should be about three inches thick, and the layers of horse manure twelve inches thick. The heap is topped with loam. At the end of ten months the bones will be reduced and the mixture fit for use.

Another plan which is very simple is to decompose them by the use of wood ashes. They are first broken up as fine as possible and put in alternate layers with unleached wood ashes, and put in a barrel or hogshead to decay as quickly as possible. The mixture should be kept moistened during several months until the bones have become soft and can be easily broken up very fine. This will probably require six months or a year.

One of the simplest ways perhaps to deal with old bones, especially where only a small quantity is to be treated, is to boil them in a strong lye, either made from wood ashes or by dissolving in water as much caustic potash as the water will hold at the boiling point. This will accomplish the work very speedily. When they are dissolved the mixture will need to be extended many times with dry muck or plaster before it can be applied to the soil. The potash added is itself a very valuable fertilizer.

POWDERY MILDEW OF CUCUMBER.—The powdery mildew of the cucumber is due to the work of a fungus. It attacks the leaves, on the upper surfaces of which it forms at first rounded spots, which appear like blotches of a white powder. These spots gradually enlarge and become confluent, until the leaf is practically covered. The attacked parts of the leaf soon turn yellow, and finally become dead and dry. Under favorable circumstances the disease spreads quite rapidly and is very destructive. Prof. Bailey and Dr. Fisher have found that the fungus may be kept in check by frequent spraying with a solution of liver of sulphur (sulphide of potassium) in water. An ounce of the drug to three gallons of water is strong enough, and will not injure the foliage. A house in which this disease has been troublesome should be thoroughly cleaned and fumigated before the next season's crop is started.—*Farm and Fireside*.