

The subject of *irrigation* for fruit crops was introduced at the meeting by Mr. J. H. Hale, who has recently experimented in a large way, and will soon be able to speak confidently of results. He believes irrigation in fruit growing can be made to pay 25% on investment. Windmill power is too uncertain, except for gardens; fruit growers should co operate, and use steam power, or large hydraulic cranes to lift the water to elevated positions, whence it can be conducted in pipes or hose. Mr. Van Deman said that the Jucunda strawberry, with irrigation, was a grand success in Colorado. One member said he had doubled his cherry crop by irrigation, and saved his pear crop, when otherwise it would have been a total loss. On peaches, however, irrigation seemed to have very little effect.

The Sowing of Crimson Clover was advocated in a paper by G. P. Powell, who advised the covering of every acre of cultivated soil with it in August, or even late in July. Even if it did not survive the winter at the North, the soil would be much enriched by its summer growth. Mr. Hale said he sowed about 40 acres of his orchard to Crimson clover every year; it continues to grow the following spring until he is ready to turn it under. In Delaware, all the peach orchards are sown with Crimson clover, and, as a result of the nitrates thus furnished, the trees grow wonderfully; but many forget that a tree also needs phosphoric acid and potash. Since growing the Crimson clover, he had not found it necessary to purchase any nitrates, and in this way, his fertilizer bill had been very much reduced.

Prof. Roberts cautioned against over-stimulating the wood growth of a young orchard, at expense of reproductive organs; because it might be difficult to teach it bearing habits. He would, therefore, avoid too much nitrate, with too little potash and phosphoric acid.

The Best Absorbents for use in stables are comparatively little known. It is a fact, however, that the low grade potash salts, especially kainit, which is sold by all agricultural dealers, and kieserit (which is not so common), if sprinkled in the stable daily or on the manure pile, will absorb the ammonia or nitrogen, preventing its escape while also adding considerable potash to the manure pile. Kainit contains about 12 lbs. of actual potash to the hundredweight. Acid phosphate is also a good absorbent if not too wet, and where the fine-ground rock phosphate can be had cheaply, it may be freely used in the stable. The decomposition in the manure pile may assist in making the phosphoric acid of this raw product available. Fine-ground land plaster or gypsum (sulphate of lime) is also a splendid absorbent and can be had almost everywhere. Where manures are to be applied to land that seems to require the use of lime, plaster should be freely used as an absorbent in the stable. These absorbents keep the stable free from odor, making them healthful, and also assist in preventing the manure from heating.—Mass. Agl. Exp. Station.