

our views on the subject of the Chemistry of Plants, more especially with regard to the sources of plant food. The above researches have also an important bearing in this respect, and if borne out by further investigation will lead us to attach still more importance to the atmosphere as a source of plant food.

In connection with this subject it may be mentioned that there is a singular want of direct and satisfactory experiments as to the real value, as a manurial application to the soil, of the mineral phosphate of lime, Apatite. Judging from the number of Canadian specimens that have been lately brought to the Laboratory of Queen's College for examination and analysis, an abundant supply of this material might be exported from Canada for agricultural purposes. The attention of English agriculturists is therefore invited to the subject.

**SEA-WEED AS A MANURE.**—The attention of the English farmer has been recently called to the use of sea-weed as a manure. This material is thrown up in enormous quantities on the shores of Britain, and on the east coast of Scotland it is extensively employed to fertilize sand dunes that would otherwise be worthless. In dry sandy soils it acts in two ways; first, by directly contributing food materials to the crop, and, secondly, by the hygroscopic action of the mucilaginous tissues in maintaining a certain degree of humidity in the arid soil, a result that is no doubt aided by the presence of the sea-salt accompanying the weed. The richness of the ash of the common sea-weed in potash, soda, phosphates, and other materials of plant growth, shows that it has a high manurial value. In Greenland specimens, the ash has been found to contain ten per cent of phosphates. The proportion of water in the recent weed is so large, however, that sea-weed cannot be profitably carried to great distances, but along the shores of the lower St. Lawrence and in the other maritime provinces, where it can be readily obtained at certain seasons, its value can scarcely be over-rated. The processes that have been suggested for converting the sea-weed into a paste for transport, mixing with peat ashes, &c., do not seem likely to lead to any useful result, so far as the British American provinces are concerned.

**STEEPS FOR SEEDS.**—Of the many "steeps" that have been recommended to facilitate the germination of seeds, the most intelligible is that of caustic potash, or carbonate of potash, applied by M. Andre Seroy to seeds naturally protected by fatty or oily pulp. He reports that the seeds of Hollies, Magnolias, Yews, and the like, which often lie dormant in the ground for a couple of years, come up readily after treatment with potash and subsequent rubbing with sand.

**BLANCHING OF FLOWERS.**—It is well known that light is as necessary to plants as a due supply of heat and moisture. The effects of its absence are often singular. We know that plants grown in darkness do not exhibit their usual healthy green color, light being required for the development of chlorophyll. Advantage is taken of this circumstance in the blanching of salads and vegetables, and the same