

cluding all articles of fodder. In Germany, where this idea of the advantage to be derived from a more careful consideration of the chemical composition of the rations of the stock, seems to have been received with considerable favour by the agricultural community, little books are published, giving not only the composition of every article that can be used for fodder, but a number of tables so arranged, that at a glance, and with but little or no calculation, one can ascertain how much non-nitrogenous matter, or fat, or albuminoids, or dry substance, there is in any given number of pounds of any kind of fodder; with the aid of such tables it is easy to make up a ration out of the greatest variety of materials, that shall have any desired composition with respect to the relative amounts of the different classes of nutritive substances contained in it.

But even with these tables to consult, there may sometimes be occasion to have special chemical analyses made; the composition of any one kind of fodder, though usually about the same, nevertheless varies somewhat with the season, soil, and mode of culture; and in case one should have a large supply of some one kind, but yet should have to buy something in order to carry the stock through till spring, a comparatively small difference in the chemical composition of this large supply might make a considerable difference in what it would be necessary to add to it, in order to make up the kind of ration which could be most profitably fed. Or even if nothing need be added to the stock of the fodder in store, yet, knowing more accurately the composition of some one kind which makes up a large proportion of it, the other smaller portion might be more economically used.

Suppose it to be a root crop, of which you have this large supply. There might be, in case the crop has received a good liberal culture on a good soil, an unusually large proportion of nitrogenous matter. You suspect this, knowing that with your treatment of the crop its quality is improved; and, if your suspicion is correct, you may have several hundred pounds more of costly and valuable albuminoids, than would be indicated if you estimated it by the tables. There is nothing in the appearance of

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