

the results of his knowledge and experience. We hope we will hereafter receive reports and correspondances from different sections of the Province our columns being open to those who will favor us with their assistance.—Ed.

Gypsum for Grass Land.

In the region of Newtown, Conn., and vicinity, (as well as in many other parts of the country,) ground gypsum, or plaster, is extensively used as a top dressing for grass land. The effects are so marked that a region of exhausted meadows and pastures have been brought into one of the finest grazing districts in the State. Newtown has now the reputation of being one of the best farming towns in Fairfield County. Hill pastures that once yielded a scanty herbage, are now luxuriant with grass, and support thousands of cattle. This fertilizer is generally sown upon the ground in the Spring, at the rate of about two bushels per acre.

It was not until modern times, that the value of gypsum, as a fertilizer, was discovered. Indeed it is not until a quite recent period, that the chemists were able to distinguish it from limestone, or other calcareous rock. Meyer, a German clergyman of distinction, about the middle of the last century, experimented with it, and is reported to be the first who brought it into notice. The substance was found in his neighborhood; and was afterwards shown to be an impure sulphate of lime. It is called Plaster of Paris, from the fact that it abounds in the neighborhood of the French capital, where it is burnt and used for stucco. In 100 pounds of pure plaster there are:

- Sulphuric acid.....43 parts.
- Lime.....33 parts.
- Water.....24 parts.

But the gypsum used for a fertilizer is usually united with silica, (sand),

and carbonate of lime. The rock is generally taken from its native locality, and carried in small fragments suitable for handling, to the plaster mill, where it is ground and barrelled.

There is perhaps no fertilizer that on some soils produces so decided results for so small a cost. It has been applied with special benefit to clover, rye, grass, lucern, sain-foin, turnips, wheat, &c. We have found it most profitable on clover. The theory of its action is, that it absorbs ammonia from the air, and holds it stored for the plants.

Whatever the theory be, it is found in practice that gypsum has a strong affinity for the ammoniacal gas, which is continually escaping from the privies and stables. One of the most economical methods of using it, is to pass it through the stable and the privy on its way to the field. It is a good deodorizer, subduing the pungent gasses that exist, in warm weather, around decaying animal matter. A cask of plaster should have a place in every stable, and it should be sprinkled literally over the floor, until the smell of ammonia ceases. Its effect upon the health of animals is quite as marked as its influence upon the manure heap.

Both as a deodorizer and as a top dressing the use of plaster is quite too limited in this country. The article is so cheap that there is little temptation to adulterate it, and a farmer is pretty certain to get what he sends for when he orders it. As only two to four bushels ordinarily suffice for an acre, it is not expensive, and easily applied. On all lands that need this fertilizer, the effect of a single application is so marked, that a farmer cannot doubt its utility or economy. On lands already supplied with it, no effect is perceptible, and a single trial would show it to be useless. In such cases, it should only be used in the stables and compost heaps.—*American Agriculturist.*