

A VALUABLE BY-PRODUCT.

THE VALUE, PRESERVATION, AND ECONOMICAL USE OF HEN-MANURE.

Poultry-manure is more valuable than any other form of farm manures. An instance was given to the writer this year where all of a certain breeder's hen-manure was used on some blackberry-vines. In previous years this man had used horse-manure, but this manure induced a great leaf-growth. By the use of the hen-manure this year a wonderful crop of berries resulted. Yet we do not find the poultryman preserving this valuable by-product as he should, in order to gain the economical value to be derived therefrom. Indeed, the nitrogen content of this manure is preserved the economical value is soon wasted.

It is estimated that a hen passes about 35 lb. of droppings on the boards in a year, while there is approximately as much voided in the daytime by each bird in the yard and on the litter. It is stated that "the night droppings contain 0.8 lb. of organic nitrogen, 0.5 lb. of phosphoric acid, and 0.25 lb. of potash." At the present price of fertilizers, this material should be worth about 30 cents. Thus, the poultryman can see that the night droppings from a thousand birds, if preserved properly, would be worth at least \$300 per annum.

Hen-manure is very rich in nitrogen, due to the fact that all the excretion of the kidneys, given in the form of uric acid, is voided in a solid form with the faeces. The nitrogen which poultry-manure contains is readily available to plant-growth, but this form of nitrogen is not stable. Bacterial action will readily change the nitrogen excreted in this way into an ammonia gas, so that the greater part of it will be given off and lost in the air unless conserved.



A good type of manure shed. We would advise one to follow the idea outlined in this circular.

On account of the peculiar condition of poultry-manure, being hard and lumpy when dried, and sticky when fresh, the farmer will not spend the time in conserving its fertilizing elements. Again, if hen-manure is used alone on the soil, it gives off nitrogen too quickly, due to the fact that it contains too great a proportion of this element in combination with phosphorus and potassium, which are not combined in this manure in great enough proportions to conserve the nitrogen.