

or no value if care is not taken at the same time to prevent as much as possible the access of air.

12. In storing stable manure in dungsteads the latter must be watertight and roofed in, and the treading down of their contents by the farm animals is to be recommended.

One thing in connection with this question is perfectly certain and that is that the use of gypsum, or ordinary ground land plaster, prevents any loss of nitrogen in the stable, and while the manure is being forwarded to the dungheap. Further, if the work from which the foregoing quotations have been made be carefully studied, and also the experiments and writings of Holdreiss, Vogel and others, it appears to be quite certain that the use of the same article, or of the gypsum produced in the manufacture of 'acid-phosphate,' completely prevents the loss of ammonia from the liquid part of the manure, and also from the organic nitrogen of the solids, provided the whole has, previous to fermentation, been made thoroughly compact, and atmospheric air almost completely excluded. Where it is found impossible to attend to the latter precautions, the safest way will probably be found to lie in avoiding fermentation altogether, by conveying the fresh manure, after treatment with gypsum, on to the field to be manured and bringing it under the soil as rapidly as possible. The latter practice has been proved to be most advantageous by the experiments which have been carried on for some time past, at the Central Experimental Farm by Director Saunders. (See Reports for 1898.)

Not only has the addition of substances which have the faculty of fixing ammonia been recommended for stable manure, but its improvement to a greater extent has been proposed by the addition of fertilizers. The following quotation is taken from Bulletin No. 45 (for March, 1897) of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and was written by Dr. C. A. Goessmann, Chemist for that institution:—

'The practice of adding to the unmanured refuse materials of the farm as stable manure, vegetable compost, &c., such single commercial unmanured substances as will enrich them in the direction desirable for any particular crop to be raised, does not yet receive that degree of general attention which it deserves' (The italics are in the original.) An addition of potash in the form of muriate or sulphate of potash, or of phosphoric acid in the form of fine ground South Carolina or Florida soft phosphate, &c., will in many instances not only improve their general fitness as complete manure, but quite frequently permit a material reduction in the amount of barn-yard manure ordinarily considered sufficient to secure satisfactory results.

* Average composition of seventy-five samples of barn-yard manure:—

	Per cent.	Lbs. per ton.
Moisture.....	67.00	1,340.0
Nitrogen.....	0.52	10.4
Potassium Oxide.....	0.56	11.2
Phosphoric Acid.....	0.39	7.8

The average barn-yard manure contains, it will be noticed from the above statement, a larger percentage of nitrogen, as compared with its potash and phosphoric acid than is generally considered economical. An addition of from thirty to forty pounds of muriate of potash, and of one hundred pounds of fine ground natural phosphate (soft Florida or South Carolina floats) per ton of barn-yard manure would greatly increase its value as an efficient and economical general fertilizer.

These are no doubt most excellent suggestions, and there is no reason why these substances should not be introduced into the stable manure in the same manner as in the case of the ground plaster above mentioned. Plain superphosphate and kainite might also be used, some of the constituents in which would be useful in fixing the ammonia, as soon as formed from the organic nitrogen. Should this suggestion be found to have practical value, there is no doubt that our fertilizer manufacturers would be found able to supply our farmers, at a very moderate cost, with a mixture of ground plaster, superphosphate and kainite, in such proportions as experience might show to be most advantageous. No better application can be made of the wood ashes produced in