

Having thus pointed out to your honorable body the defects of the present law, I will respectfully offer such suggestions for its amendment, as my experience in its duties have taught me to be necessary.

Frst.—The laboratory should be fixed permanently in one place.

The analysis of a soil, is one of the most difficult and delicate of all analytical operations. Any error in it, besides subjecting those who might be governed by its results, to loss, in making improper applications of manures, would also retard or destroy confidence in its ability to render aid to the art of Agriculture, and thus cause farmers to reject assistance from the source most capable of rendering it at the cheapest rate. As *every thing* depends on the accuracy of an analysis, *every care* should be taken to insure that accuracy. A much greater number, also, could be performed in a fixed laboratory, and every analysis, is one certain step towards forming a true system of Agriculture. If one analysis be of service, a greater number would confer proportionally greater benefit. With a fixed laboratory, no time would be lost, in moving it from place to place; the soil or marls capable of being easily moved, without injury, should be moved to the laboratory—which can be moved only with risk of injury—and not the laboratory to them. During the past year, could my laboratory have been permanent, many young gentlemen capable of affording me valuable assistance, would have been with me; who would in time have become so many sources for the diffusion of scientific knowledge, derived from the application of Chemistry to Agriculture. In this way the State would secure a much greater amount of profitable work, for the same cost; the benefits of the law would be more quickly and generally diffused, and means would be given for furnishing to a large number of our citizens, without cost, knowledge of practical analysis, now scarcely attainable at the highest expense. So that, while the principal was employed in collecting specimens, taking a general survey of the country, and giving to the community, by lectures or otherwise, the fruits of his investigations, the data of these results would still be accumulating, and their education would not be suspended with his absence from the laboratory.

3rd. The lectures are too numerous, they should only be given at such times and places as to secure a good attendance. Written instructions for publication should take their place, whenever, in the judgment of the Chemist, it would best subserve the ends of the law.

4th. The time for the examination of any particular county or district, should be left, also, in a great measure to the judgment of the Chemist, under certain restrictions.

It is an acknowledged principle, that the followers of every profession or art, are the best judges of the manner in which the duties of their respective callings can be performed. This is conceded to those who follow occupations, of which all in the commu-