

This, though a novel, yet I think is a correct explanation, at least it more thoroughly explains the well known facts attending the action of this substance than any other view which I have seen taken of it.

Common Salt.—The mode of action of this substance is uncertain as yet, but experience has shown that it is a very useful application on all soils that have a tendency to produce crops of wheat liable to be *straw-fallen*. It gives a clean, strong straw, *increases the weight of the grain*, and imparts such vigor to the crops on which it should be used as to render them much more free from loss by attacks from insects or by unfavorable weather, than otherwise they would be. It also acts as a manure by dissolving the phosphate of lime which may exist in the soil, and thus rendering it available to plants. *It should be applied in the latter part of winter or early in the spring, when the wheat crop first begins its growth after the cold weather.*

The quantity to be applied annually is about two bushels, at intervals of about three weeks.

ARTIFICIAL MANURES.

The artificial manures at present most prominent before the agricultural community are divided into two classes, viz: MANIPULATED GUANOS, which assume to be equal parts of Mexican and Peruvian Guanos intimately mixed, and Biphosphate of Lime or Superphosphate of Lime, which are Bones or the Phosphatic Guanos dissolved in Sulphuric Acid. At present I do not know at what price the former manure is now sold, but if it is properly *made*, out of the best *materials*, and the vendors of this manure are from previous education and study, fully competent to the duties of the selection and manipulation, then heretofore it has been sold at a price far above its real intrinsic value.

The high price of crops, and an energetic spirit of improvement, have caused a demand for many other manures than those formerly used, and to meet this demand, manufacturers have introduced into our markets various compounds.

These have been recommended to the use of the farming community by recommendations from practical men who have used them, and have been endorsed, *without qualification*, by some "scientific men." I cannot too strongly caution farmers to beware of these manures. There have been manures extensively sold in our markets at a price very far above their real value, which price could not be obtained if farmers were correctly informed in relation to them. Compounds under names and with certificates calculated to deceive the public, are now so prominently advertised by means of pamphlets and the commercial and