

So far as has come to my knowledge, the experience in our upland counties is decidedly in favor of applying salt to the wheat crop, but I am without a sufficient number of facts to indicate those portions of the tide water counties in which it may be usefully applied. In Europe it does not appear to have produced any benefit on lands near the ocean or large area of salt water. We may, therefore, doubt whether it will be useful in several of our southern counties.

If bones be used, an excellent mode of applying salt is to add the salt to the compost of bones recommended in chapter XI.

CHAPTER XIV.

BARN YARD MANURE.

The agricultural community are so much accustomed to homilies upon the management of the manures from the animals of their farms, that I really doubted the propriety of touching upon the subject in the present report. Its relations to success in agriculture, however, are such that, upon further reflection, I felt it my duty to make some effort in aid of a progress towards a reform in this regard.

The utility of farm yard manure is so universally conceded, that one would suppose a farmer would be as little likely to allow waste therein as in his crop or his money. We find, however, on many farms the most useful constituents of the stable manure either escaping into the air, or being washed off during heavy rains. I cannot but believe, if farmers would make themselves better acquainted with the *chemistry of manure*, that very many who neglect this branch of their occupation would have the extent of their loss so plainly exhibited, as very promptly to bring about an improved system.

Some years since a gentleman, now numbered with the dead, and who was alike distinguished as a statesman and a farmer, said to me: "We have various substances used for manuring the soil, but why is it that barn-yard manure is the only kind suited for every kind of soil and every kind of crop?" The reply, of course, was that it was produced from the soil, and contains every constituent that enters into the composition of plants, and in such a state as to be easily assimilated by them.