

rived for agricultural purposes, viz: limestone, Indian shell banks, burnt oyster shells and shell marl. The indications for its use are its absence or deficiency in the soil and its chemical condition.

MODE OF APPLICATION.

This is a subject upon which there is much difference of opinion among practical men.

The greatest good is obtained from lime when thoroughly mixed and incorporated with the soil. In the application of lime, then, the first consideration should be so to use it as to mix it intimately with the soil. This is sought to be done in three ways:—1st. By applying it to the surface, and suffering it to remain undisturbed for a year or two;—2d. By applying it to the surface, ploughing it under immediately, and working the land in some crop;—3d. By mixing it in compost beds, and applying it in the same manner. Each of these methods has its peculiar advantages, and is also liable to objections. The *texture* of the soil is to be taken into consideration. By the first method, the lime becomes very thoroughly mixed with the soil, particularly if it be a loose sandy soil, as the rain water washes down its particles, and fixes them between the grains of sand. But when lime, or any other manure, is purchased, an immediate return is desired, which cannot be had if this plan be followed. Many of our farmers, too, having but little ready money, cannot afford to spend it without getting a speedy remuneration for its use. By the second method, the lime is thrown to the bottom of the furrow, and cannot be afterwards well incorporated with the soil, which is a great objection, as the benefit from its use, to the fullest extent, is not speedily obtained. The third method has the advantage of diffusing the lime very equally over the surface, insuring its mixture afterwards; but it involves great labor in hauling and applying it, and but a small quantity can be applied at a time in this manner. The best mode of combining the advantages of these several methods, is first to fallow up the ground, which leaves it uneven, with numerous fissures produced by the ploughing, apply the lime, then follow it with a heavy iron tooth harrow, and cultivate it in some crop that requires frequent working,—corn for example. In this manner we mix the lime well with the soil, receive its benefits immediately in a crop, which can be more completely realized, as the corn can be followed by wheat, with which clover may be sown. The chief indications are then fulfilled. 1st. The lime is more thoroughly mixed with the soil. 2d. Return for its cost in a crop of corn. 3d. Increased return by a crop of wheat immediately succeeding the corn, and then the benefit of a good crop of clover, so useful, not only as food for stock, but also as an improvement to the crop which it precedes.