This is an indirect proof for the correctness of the views, as laid down in the foregoing; the application of a green clover ley being, indeed, in every respect, a substitute for a dressing with fresh stable manure.

The last, and in a practical point of view, the most important matter to be discussed, is the manner in which stable manure should be preserved so as to secure the most beneficial results from its use. The conclusions which we have drawn above, in relation to the composition of both putrefied and fresh stable manure, are only correct when the proper precautions have been taken to preserve it and to regulate the process of its putrefaction. When this is attended to, practice and scientific investigation have shown that there occurs little or no loss in its valuable fertilizing constituents. Every man of common sense must admit that the rules to be adopted for a rational system of saving manure, must be based on the knowledge of changes that occur in the course of its putrefaction, and it is in accordance with our present knowledge of this process that we may lay down the following rules in relation to it:

1st. The ground selected for the deposition of stable manure should be even, in order to permit the equal distribution of the manure on it, and thus secure to the heap uniformity in thickness. Only in this case the process of putrefaction will proceed regularly in every part of the heap, and its body will prove to be of a homogeneous character.

2d. The manure should be protected against the direct rays of the sun, in order to prevent the too rapid advance of the putrefactive process, and a consequent generation of heat which will incur a considerable loss of ammonia. Practical experiments made with equal weights of stable manure exposed to the sun, and with that under cover, show the effect of the latter to be, within a certain time, about 25 per cent. greater than the former.

3d. The manure heap should be kept moderately moist; if it be too dry, the degree of heat then produced will volatilize ammonia; if too wet, an acid humus will be formed which, being soluble, in water, acts very injuriously on vegetation. In order best to attain this end the ground should be slightly inclined, and all the fluid that runs from the heap be collected in a pit, from which it may from time to time be scattered over the heap.

If the above rules are strictly observed, and the necessary arrangements which they require to be made, fairly provided for, no other precautions need to be taken for securing the highest possible effect of this manure. The practice of applying plaster of Paris, copperas, or sulphuric acid, for the purpose of fixing the volatile ammonia, is then unnecessary and may best be entirely dis-