

THE USE OF BONES AS A MANURE.

BY BEE.

THE mode of cultivation in the Southern Atlantic States has been well calculated to exhaust the soil of their phosphates, and thus make the application of bones as a manure a matter of general interest to your readers. By the phosphates, I mean the union of phosphoric acid with potash, soda or lime.

As introductory to what I have to say, I will give a table which represents the substances which compose the bone of a sheep (the ileum,) as taken from an analysis made by Dr. Thompson, and referred to by Johnston, in his *Agricultural Chemistry*, page 447.

Organic, or combustible matter,	43.3
Phosphate of Lime,	50.6
Carbonate of Lime,	4.5
Magnesia,	0.9
Soda,	0.3
Potash,	0.2
	—
	99.8

Which table shows, that of every hundred pounds in its material state, fifty pounds and six-tenths of another pound are composed of phosphate of lime.

It is not, however, my intention to go into details of the composition of bones, or dwell upon the history of their uses as a manure. Their uses and very great benefits in English husbandry, are well known to all conversant with the progress of agriculture in that country, and the demand has been greater than the supply since their first introduction about the year 1766, by Anthony St. Ledger. My object is to give two of the most approved modes of preparing bones to be applied to the land, and, in doing this, I know I will best serve your readers by giving the opinions and directions of those whose reputation and merits will no doubt command respect and attention. The able and experienced editor of the *American Farmer*, speaking in reference to this subject, uses the following language:

"We know of no manure that we would so soon rely upon as a lasting improver of the soil, when used in compost with ashes, salt and mould, or when mixed with and left in heap for two or three weeks, with about one-fourth the usual quantities of barn yard manure. If prompt action rather than permanent effect be desired, which should

not be the case, the mode of producing this effect is to reduce them to a pulp with dilute sulphuric acid, and then mixing them to dryness with ashes and mould.

In regard to the manner of preparing and using bones, we will add to that which has been said the remark of Stephens, in his *Farmer's Guide*:

"Of late it has been deemed better to use bone-dust in combination with sulphuric acid, or rather the oil of vitriol, as sold in the shops, than by itself, or with farm-yard dung. The effect of the action of the acid on the bones is to reduce them to a pulpy mass, which is made in this manner:

"Mix a given quantity of vitriol with twice its bulk of water, in any convenient vessel, when the mixture will evolve a considerable degree of heat. Put into a large tub or trough double the weight of the bone dust as of acid used, and pour the mixture of acid and water gradually, and by times over it. An action will soon be observed arising from the escape of carbonic acid gas, and in time, in stirring, the bone-dust will be entirely dissolved and form a mass with the acid and water. The mass may be dried with riddled saw-dust, dry ashes, or fine, dry vegetable mould, and the granulated powder thus prepared may be sown either by itself, or in combination with farm-yard dung. * * * Uncrushed bones will answer the purpose as well as crushed, but the acid will take much longer time to act upon them."

In the above extracts it has been the writer's object to present information of a highly important character to the farmer, and in as plain language and in as few words as he has been able to command.—*South Carolina Agriculturist*.

POLL EVIL IN HORSES.—For the benefit of those who have or may hereafter have horses that have poll evil or fistula, I would say, don't sell the animal for a trifle, or give him away; but cure him sound and well. I care not how long it has been running, it can be cured with one dime; yes, one dime's worth of muriatic acid will cure the worst case of old poll evil. First, wash the sore well with strong soap suds, then drop eight or ten drops of the acid in it twice a day, until it has the appearance of a fresh wound; after which, it should be washed clean with suds made from castile soap, and left to heal, which it will quickly do if the acid has been used long enough; but if it does not get well, apply the acid again until it does cure, for it is a sure remedy, and will not fail if it is applied until the diseased flesh is all burnt out.

Prairie Farmer.