

Farmers' Department.

Patent Office Report, 1876. CALCAREOUS MANURES.

The Use of Burned Lime as an Application to the Soil. (Continued.) Quicklime can also act as a decomposer and solvent of mineral substances.

It causes, for instance, an unlocking of the mineral constituents of the soil, the products of which (silica, potash, &c.) can then be consumed as food by the plants growing upon it.

Application of Lime to Land.—It has already been observed that lime, from its nature, must act both as a stimulant and as a manure, while it makes the earth exert itself in the nourishment of vegetables.

In uncultivated land, in which there is a large quantity of vegetable remains, lime ought to be used chiefly as a stimulant; and when improved land needs a recant of vegetable food, it ought chiefly to be used as a manure.

Lime forms a necessary constituent of all plants: if not present in sufficient quantity in the soil, the growth of vegetation is poor; therefore, lime may act favorably in certain cases by supplying this deficiency.

Carbonate of lime is far less coherent in texture, and is of no looser nature than clay or loam, so that it has the power of improving tenacious soils mechanically.

Some persons think, from witnessing its first effects, that they can always have recourse to lime with the same success; but in this, they will assuredly be disappointed.

It may be proper to observe, likewise, that when lime is applied in small quantities, as a manure, it is necessary to repeat the application frequently; it is probable that the soil loses its absorbent property communicated by the lime; for experience proves that, if lime is frequently used, it must be applied as a manure, and not simply as a stimulant.

Chalk is another form of carbonate of lime that occurs very abundantly in many countries, and which, from its soft, earthy nature, has been extensively applied to the land in many parts of England without success.

opens and imparts freeness to stiff clays, and adds firmness to such as are of a sandy nature. If a physical improvement of this kind be required, it is laid out at the rate of from 400 to 1,000 bushels to an acre.

For the improvement of coarse, sour, marshy pasture, it is applied at the rate of from 150 to 250 bushels to an acre, and speedily brings up a sweet and delicate herbage.

It is also said to root out sorrel from lands which are infested with this plant. These effects are precisely such as usually follow from the application of marl, and, like marl, the repetition of chalk exhausts the land, if manure be not afterwards added to it in sufficient quantity.

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