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Tonight and Thursday
One Lingering Long Laugh
Note in the Shoe
One Busy Hour
The Bondsman's Fate
Cured by Gymnastics
ONE DIME.

The Medford Pharmacy
The Store with the Yellow Front

DRAWS FOOD FROM THE AIR

Interesting Lecture Given by Chemist Pointing Out New Methods in Feeding Plants.

What may be called the "piece de resistance" of the International Congress on Applied Chemistry appeared when Professor Bernthsen, director of the Baden Anilino and Soda Factory, and one of the greatest authorities on aniline dyes, gave a demonstration of a new method invented in 1905 by Professor Otto Schronherr for the manufacture of air saltpetre, the manure of the future for our food crops.

The lecture was announced for mid-day but the large demonstration theatre of the Central Technical College was so crowded with delegates long before that time that Professor Armstrong, of the Central Technical College, who was chairman, asked Professor Bernthsen to begin his lecture at 11:45.

Importance of Nitrates

Professor Bernthsen went to the heart of his subject at once. Of all the things which agriculturists supply to the ground to stimulate the growth of crops what are called nitrates are the most important. When nitrogen is omitted the yield of oats falls 89 per cent. The world's store of saltpetre, it has been estimated, at the present rate of consumption cannot last longer than from twenty-one to forty-two years. Sir William Crookes in 1899 said that the extraction of nitrogen from the air "is one of the greatest discoveries awaiting the ingenuity of chemists." It was this discovery that Professor Bernthsen was describing.

Four-fifths of the air we breathe is composed of nitrogen, but the problem is to make it combine with oxygen to form what is called nitric and nitrous oxides. This is brought about by the agency of great temperatures. Professor Bernthsen turned to his apparatus, which two German mechanics and an engineer had erected.

It consisted of a long narrow tube, with a copper spiral running up to it. At the sides similar tubes carried running water to cool the upper connection of the spiral. From the top of the tube ran an iron tube with a stopcock, to carry away the nitrogen oxides. A current is sent through a glass tube, and the compressed air which is sent in at the same time carries the flame up through the spiral to the other end of the tube. The flame makes the nitrogen and oxygen combine, and this is cooled down and carried away.

Artificial Manure of the Future.

Professor Bernthsen made a sign

to an assistant. The current was switched on, another assistant made a connection at the bottom of the tube and in a few seconds a brilliant bluish flame was mounting up the glass tube. A few seconds later the delegates saw the familiar brown-yellowish color of nitrous oxide gas appearing in the globe. The appearance was the signal for prolonged applause.

The current employed for demonstration was at a pressure of 5000 volts, and nearly 6 h.p. of electrical energy was used. The gas obtained is mixed with limestone, when calcium nitrate or "air saltpetre," is formed. A slightly different method gives calcium nitrate, which, being richer in nitrogen, may, said the professor, become the artificial manure of the future.

Professor Bernthsen hopes that within a few years the annual output of air saltpetre will reach 100,000 tons.

The second team of Talent beat the Woodchucks in an interesting game on the commons Sunday. The score stood 37 to 17. The Woodchucks blamed their defeat to the Talent rooters, and as Talent had very few the excuse won't stand.

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