Land Plaster or Gypsum as a Fertilizer.

The manurial value of land plaster-sulphate of lime-has long been known and acknowledged. As long ago as when Benjamin Franklin lived and employed his peculiar but most effective modes of presenting great and important truths to his countrymen, land plaster was employed as a dressing upon the land of our most advanced and intelligent farmers. That great philosopher once adopted the following characteristic method of teaching the value of this important mineral as an aid to growing crops: He selected a large grass field by the side of a public highway near Philadelphia, which rose gradually from the read to the rear of the field, and staked out upon its surface the forms of certain letters; within these forms he sowed freely his favorite fertilizer. As the season wore away the grass thus prepared soon shot up far shead of the surrounding herbage which was not so treated, until it finally stood out in such bold relief of luxuriant green that no passer-by could fail to observe the phenomena, which explained itself in the magic words-LAND PLASTES. This was a practical test of the value of the fertilizer, which fairly spoke for itself in words which

which fairly spoke for itself in words which could be neither ignored nor disputed.

The philosophy of this fertilizer—exactly how it acts upon vegetation—is not tolly understood or agreed upon by sgricultural writers. It is well known, however, that it has a great affinity for ammonia, one of the most fertilizing agents known. It is this quality which gives its great value as a disin ectant about stables, where ammoniacal gas is so abundant. A slight sprinkling of gypsum on a compost heap arrests the escaping gases at once, and the unplessant volutile ammonia is lost to the sense of smell. As fast as the ammonia passes from the mass it is taken up by the sulphuric acid contained in the gypsum and in combination therewith forms a sulphate of ammonia which, when placed in contact with the rootlets of vegetation, in a not over moist soil, readily gives up its ammonia as food for the plant.

readily gives up its ammonia as food for the plant.

Hence it is reasonably supposed that when spread upon land, without a prior contact with the compost heap, it collects ammonia from the atmosphere and conveys it to the plant in the same manner as already described. Others suppose that when applied directly to the land it possesses the power of condensing moisture during the cool hours of the night, and imparting its nightly accomulations to the soil or plant roots during the day. Whether one or both, or neither of these propositious are true, there can be no mistake about its great value as a fertilizer to every species of vegetation—whether grass, grain, vines or trees. The experiment of Frankin has been tried time and again in nearly all parts of the country, and almost always with the most gratifying success.

The conditions of its use are simply a not

The conditions of its use are simply a not over moi-tsoil. In corn or roots it may be dropped in the hill; but the usual way of applying it is to sow it broadcast upon the surface—for wheat, as soon after it is up as it beface—for wheat, as soon after it is up as it be-gins to show the need of moisture; the same with grass. For trees and vines it should be spread freely upon the ground. It need not be harrowed in when so spread under any cir-cumstances. We have little doubt but that this tertilizer would prove of great benefit to the dry, and soils of California. We understand that some of our farmers are already ex-perimenting with it, and we tru-t some of them will send us the results of their experiments as soon as results are reached.—Raral Press.

A PRETTY SCIENTIFIC TRICK.—The following of endorsed by Professor Young, of Darlmouth College; it will afford, perhaps, an occasional hour amusement "round the evening lamp," and stinual te soi ntific research for the young silks: Wet a thick piece of wrapping paper or a half a sheet of heavy foolscap paper; dry it thoroughly over the register or on top of the gove; while warm lay it down upon a varnished table, or a dry woolen cloth, and rub it briskly with a piece of India rubber. It will become strongly electrified, and if tossed against the wall of the room or the lookinglass, will adhere for a long time. Tear some usene paper in o bits one eight of an inch square, and a piece of paper electrified in the way described will astract them in a very amusing menner. Set a japanned tea tray (the varnish must be in go dorder, not worn off much or cracked), upon three dry objects; lay into the tray electrified paper, and on touching the tray again you will get another spark, but of the opposite kind of electric ty replace the paper and you get an A PRETTY SCIENTIFIC TRICK .- The following get another spark, but of the opposite kind of electric ty; replace the paper and you get another, and so on indefinitely. The tray and paper form, in fact, a very neat and effective electrophorus with which can be performed many of the experiments described in the text books.

Doctors.-There is no danger that the physician will ever become a useless member of society, for the simple reason that instead of decreasing the share of his duties, the culture of preventive medicine—of the knowledge of how to prevent diseases as well as to cure them after they are engendered—must tend to amplify and enlarge the same. His will be the task, not merely to recognize the forms of alls and endeavor to combat their effects, but to look into the future and, through the sid of all circumpoint out means of defense. Add to this the constantly increasing knowledge of drugs and their properties, of the wonderful relations of mind and body, of the nature and habits of disease, which science is rapidly developing, and the physician of the future has before him not a narrower but a far wider field for the exercise

To CRISTALIZE FLOWERS.-Construct some baskets of fancy form with pliable copper wire, baskets of fancy form with pitatic copper wire, and wrap them with gauze. Into these tie to the bo tom violets, ferns, geranium leaves—in fact, any flowers except full-blown roses—and sink them in a solution of slume of one pound to a gallon of water, after the solution has cooled. The colors will then be preserved in their original beauty, and the crystalized alum will hold faster than when from a hot solution. When you have a light covering of crystals that covers completely the article, remove the basket carefully, and allow it to drip for twelve hours. The basket makes a beautiful parlor ornament, and for a long time preserve the freshness of

To SHOW THE PATH OF AN ELECTRIC DIS-CHARGE.-A correspondent of the English Mechanic says: "Take a sheet of glass, wash it well with soda and water, dry well with an unsoaped towel, polish well with a clean washleather. Having found the 'striking distance'
of your Leyden jar, battery, or electric machine, place the sheet of glass just below the
points of discharge, so that they may rest upon it. The shock may now be passed over the
sheet, when on removing the glass and breathing on it, a picture of the track of the electric
fluid will be distinctly visible, as clear glass on
a dull ground." well with sods and water, dry we'l with an un-

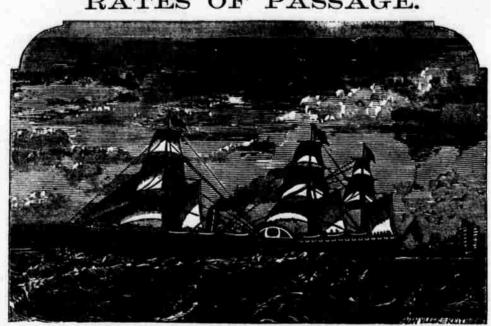
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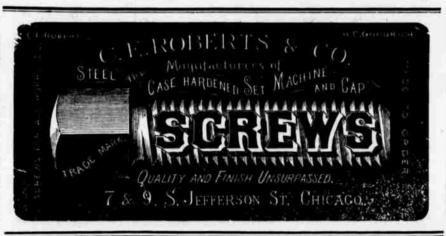
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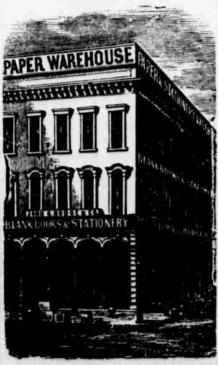
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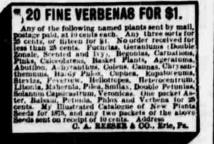
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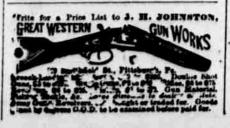


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