

**AMERICAN MANURES,
AND FARMERS' AND
PLANTERS' GUIDE**

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American manures, and farmers' and planters' guide by William H. Bruckner & J. B. Chynoweth

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WILLIAM H. BRUCKNER & J. B. CHYNOWETH

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AND

FARMERS' AND PLANTERS'

G U I D E.

COMPRISING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE ELEMENTS AND COMPOSITION OF
PLANTS AND SOILS—THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF
COMPOSTING—THE VALUE OF STABLE MANURE
AND WASTE PRODUCTS, ETC., ETC., ETC.

ALSO,

CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF THE PRINCIPAL MANUFACTURED
FERTILIZERS—THEIR ASSUMED AND REAL VALUE—
AND A FULL EXPOSÉ OF THE

FRAUDS PRACTISED UPON PURCHASERS.

BY

WILLIAM H. BRUCKNER, PH. D.,

ANALYTICAL AND CONSULTING CHEMIST,

AND

J. B. CHYNOWETH.

PHILADELPHIA:

WILLIAM H. BRUCKNER,

1872.

COMMENDATIONS.

NO. I.

From Philadelphia's distinguished Lawyer, Theo. Cuyler :

I have examined the several pages of the book entitled "American Manures and Farmers' and Planters' Guide," published at Philadelphia, by Chynoweth and Company, 1871, to which you asked my attention. These pages are numbered 214, 216, 227, 238, 240 and 244. I have also examined the book at large sufficiently to enable me to form an idea of its general scope and tenor. Assuming the statements of the book to be true at the pages indicated, they do not in my opinion transcend the bounds of legitimate criticism and are not libellous. The language, though severe and strong, is not more strong and severe than such facts justify in a book devoted to the useful instruction of the people in a preeminently important department of practical knowledge. I could much more easily understand, that silence and the suppression of such information on the part of those possessing it, would be an offence against society, than I could that its utterance would be a legal offence against the rights of an individual engaged in the perpetration of such deceptions. No man has a legal right to mislead and deceive the public. If he does so and injury to any individual results therefrom, he is liable in damages. If he does so and is exposed, he who exposes him has performed a duty, and not committed a wrong.

(Signed,)

THEO. CUYLER.

NO. II.

From the Author of "American Grape Growers' Guide," etc. :

Your book "American Manures and Farmers' and Planters' Guide," supplies, most effectually, a want that has long existed, and, no doubt, will save millions of dollars to the agricultural community, not only from the fearless manner in which you have exposed the frauds of the manufacturers of special fertilizers, but, also, by the lucid and scientific, yet practical and readily

understood explanations given. You have brought the chemistry and general science of agriculture down to so fine a point that the most illiterate cultivator, if he can only read the English language, cannot help but know what is wanted to improve his land, and supply that want at a fair money value. Forty years ago, I was just arriving at manhood, and since that time, have been actively employed in practical farming and horticulture, and can truly state, from actual experience, that many of your deductions are perfectly correct. In fact, you have brought before the public a greater amount of reliable information, in condensed form, than is to be found in Liebig and Johnson combined, or any other work of the same kind which I have yet seen.

(Signed,)

WM. CHORLTON.

NO. III.

From the North American and United States Gazette, the leading Commercial Paper of Philadelphia :

The authors premise that strictly scientific writers on the use and composition of fertilizers are usually too technical for the comprehension of practical men, and the merely practical writers record results without elucidating causes or opening the philosophy involved. They essay to unfold the frauds of manufactured manures, of which, it is said, 500,000 tons are sold annually in this country, at a cost of \$25,000,000, to the farmers. One chapter is surrendered to an exposition of the elements of manures and plants, and the action of one on the other; another to the kind and amount of fertilizer different plants need; one to the composition of soils, and others to the values of fertilizers in money. The last chapter is filled with analyses. There is enough in almost any ten pages treating of the patent manures and fertilizers to ground as many libel suits. One fertilizer after another is shown to be deficient in value, or over-priced, or otherwise undesirable, and the authors state how they secured the material from which their analyses were made. So far as the chemistry of agriculture is involved, the work is admirable. We hesitate only over the exposition made of special articles so long and highly commended. But conceding the truth of the statements, every farmer should use fertilizers, and telescopes endless in selecting them. We fail to notice any apparent commendation of one at the cost of the others, but do see that the German fertilizers have a double per cent. of phosphates over the best of our own. The book proposes to enable every farmer to compost for himself, and so secure a reliable fertilizer. The importance of the subject cannot be over-estimated, and the capital at issue will certainly advertize this work in one way or another strongly. It seems to be thoroughly fair and reliable.

NO. IV.

OUR HOME PHOSPHATES.

From the Charleston, S. C., Courier:

The manufacture and sale of Superphosphates under their many different names and varied experimental value have become of such importance in this country as to warrant steps being taken, not only to protect the planter from injustice, but also in the interest of the honest dealer who does give value received for money paid. The different Governments of Europe whom we are in the habit of calling slow, have long ago said that parties selling these articles shall affirm the constituents of their compounds and guarantee their proportions, in order that parties, whose general knowledge of chemistry may be sufficient for ordinary purposes shall, when they wish to use an organic or mineral constituent as the food of their crop, get what they pay for, or have the means of redress.

Our attention has been forcibly called to the subject by a careful perusal of a book laid upon our table purporting to be *American Measures*, their *money value*, by James Bennett Chynoweth, late Superintendent of Fertilizer Works, and William H. Bruckner, Ph. D., Analytical and Consulting Chemist, Philadelphia. A careful perusal will repay the planter and farmer, also those interested in the sale of Superphosphates. It is written in plain language and devoid of the symbols and technical character of the terms of Science. It is especially due from our Charleston manufacturers of Superphosphates that they give as wide a circulation as possible to the public of the valuable information conveyed in this publication.

If one-half of what is told of the many subterfuges and false proportions put upon our planting community by our Northern manufacturing friends is true, the market of the United States is in our hands, and we only need to use the resources which Providence has committed to us and their proper development, which ordinary intelligence should give, in order to obtain that controlling influence in our markets, which the possession of inexhaustible beds of *Native Bone Phosphate* entitle us. In any event, the natural course of trade ought in time to give us this control; but with the impetus which this description of facts, properly ventilated, should produce, Charleston ought at one bound to step to the front rank, in the United States at least, as a manufacturer of fertilizers.

We have taken the money value to the consumer of fourteen of the fertilizers mentioned in this publication, the names of which were most familiar to us, and some of whom are as household words over the Cotton States, and to find it to vary from four 96-100 dollars for the lowest value up, with variations to thirty-six 93-100 dollars. These fertilizers are sold at the place of manufacture at from forty-five to fifty-six dollars per ton of

2000 pounds. Now if our planting friends experienced so much benefit as their many flattering encomiums show, from so small a value received in proportion to the outlay made, how much more favorable would have been the reports, and how much more satisfactory the state of their money resources, had they received a fair value for the amount paid? These writers state that there is consumed in the United States to-day five hundred thousand tons of fertilizers at a cost to the consumers of twenty-five millions of dollars. How bright a vista of future prosperity looms up in future for us if we only use our best efforts to centralize this trade, so immense in its young proportion, and direct its regenerating influences over our much divided low country of South Carolina. The larger proportion of our community do not realize how large an influence the possession of these phosphate beds, properly developed, will have on our commercial position, and it will well become us in the future to use some efforts for home prosperity, and devote some time and capital for the proper management of our home institutions.

NO. V.

From the Journal of Applied Chemistry, published simultaneously in New York, Philadelphia and Boston:

They carry a steady lance and strike pretty hard blows, and we should advise every farmer who proposes to buy fertilizers to read this book before he makes too large an investment. An accurate knowledge of the scientific part of this book would save every farmer the time and expense of many useless experiments. There is a large amount of information condensed into a small space, and so far as we have been able to detect from a hasty perusal, this information is carefully selected and correctly given according to the latest and best authorities. Some controversial portions of the work might, perhaps, have found a better place in the columns of influential newspapers, but we do not object to them as they add piquancy and spice to the feast the authors have afforded us. It is a pity that a few dishonest manufacturers of fertilizers have brought the business into such ill-repute, and the only remedy would appear to be just such an exposure of the tricks of the trade as is here given. We commend the book to the notice of our agricultural readers.

The work will be sent by mail, postage paid, to any address, by remitting the price, \$1.50.

Address,

WILLIAM H. BRUCKNER,

Monroe, Michigan.

Agents wanted in every Township in the United States. Liberal inducements offered.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

MR. CHYNOWETH'S connection with "American Manures" having ceased, it affords the author pleasure in announcing that the first edition of the work has been exhausted, and thanking the public for their kind patronage of the same. While he is conscious that certain parties put forth all their energies to suppress the work in its infancy, he is glad to say that success has not crowned their efforts, as is evinced by this revised edition. And it is hoped, not only by him, but he trusts by all who have the welfare of their fellow-beings at heart, that subsequent editions may follow in quick succession.

It is the writer's intention to embrace in future editions of the work analyses, not only of manures representing those which have been examined, but of others; and judging from the following quotation of a letter from a manufacturer of fertilizers, dated Nov. 29th, he will not be surprised to find a marked improvement in the quality of the former.

"The book has exercised a great influence on the fertilizing business, and has put thousands of dollars

into the pockets of the farmers. Every manufacturer has increased the quality of his article. The State of Delaware employs a State Chemist, and all manufacturers must have their fertilizers analyzed by that chemist before they are allowed to sell in that State, so that there was a fair chance to observe the rise of the Phosphate Business."

Immediately after the publication of "American Manures," Messrs. Wattson & Clark, manufacturers of Superphosphate of Lime, No. 135 North Water street, Philadelphia, *while candidly admitting the correctness of analyses and fairness of criticism of their product*, informed the writer that they manufacture a superphosphate of lime (never found in the market in bags), which they *warrant* to contain 10 per cent. of soluble phosphoric acid (anhydrous), and which *in quantity* they are willing to sell at the price laid down in this book, namely, 12½ cents per pound, for soluble phosphoric acid; or, in other words, they charge for the above superphosphate, \$25 per short ton.

This statement is made, because *justice demands it*; and farmers *desirous of getting the worth of their money*, would do well to club together to purchase such an article in quantity. Subsequent division to meet the wants of each purchaser could easily be effected.

WILLIAM H. BRUCKNER.

March, 1872.