CHEMISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: THE FOOD OF PLANTS: INCLUDING THE COMPOSITION, PROPERTIES, AND ADULTERATION OF MANURES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649531790

Chemistry of Agriculture: The Food of Plants: Including the Composition, Properties, and Adulteration of Manures by Charles A. Cameron

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

CHARLES A. CAMERON

CHEMISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: THE FOOD OF PLANTS: INCLUDING THE COMPOSITION, PROPERTIES, AND ADULTERATION OF MANURES

Trieste

CHEMISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

THE FOOD OF PLANTS:-

INCLUDING

THE COMPOSITION, PROPERTIES, AND ADULTERATION

OF

MANURES.

BY

CHARLES A. CAMERON, M.D.,

PROFESSOR TO THE DUBLIN CHEMICAL SOCIETY; LECTURER ON CHEMISTRY AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DUBLIN, ETC., ETC.

"Nihil agricultura melius, nihil dulcius, nihil libero homine dignius."—Cicero.

DUBLIN:

W. B. KELLY, 8, GRAFTON-STREET.

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND COMPANY,

STATIONERS'-HALL COURT.

1857.

PRINTED AT THE FARMERS' GAZETTE OFFICE,
23, BACHELOR'S-WALK, DUBLIN.

TO

SIR ROBERT KANE, F.R.S., V.P.R.I.A., &c. &c.,

PRESIDENT OF THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK; DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM OF IRISH INDUSTRY.

My dear Sir Robert,

It is with no ordinary feelings that I dedicate to you this little work on Agricultural Chemistry.

Your career, distinguished not more by brilliant achievements in the field of science than by the zeal and success with which you have labored to ensure their practical application, confirms the appropriateness of this dedication.

It cannot but be to me a source of the sincerest gratification to have my name thus associated with that of one who is so intimately identified with the scientific and industrial progress of our country.

Believe me,

My dear Sir Robert,

Yours most faithfully and obliged,

CHARLES A. CAMERON.

PREFACE.

A PORTION of the following treatise formed the subject of some lectures delivered by me at meetings of the agricultural section of the Dublin Chemical Society. Many of the members, and others present, conceiving that such a course would be advantageous to the agricultural classes, requested me to publish the substance of those lectures in a more permanent and popular form.

In acceding to their request I have endeavoured, when practicable, to avoid the use of scientific phraseology, in order that the general reader, for whose perusal this little book has been specially written, may not be unnecessarily inconvenienced. At the same time I may here observe, that it would be quite impossible to treat of any department of science without the introduction of terms which, to a reader for the *first time*, must appear embarrassing, if not discouraging. I would, however, urge upon all readers, under such circumstances, the necessity of perseverance—a little patience and application, and they will find ample compensation in the discovery which inevitably follows—that the difficulties which at first appeared unconquerable are gradually disappearing, and also in the reflection that they will have acquired knowledge, the advantages of which cannot be over estimated.

I am aware that a great deal has been done to extend and promote a knowledge of agricultural chemistry by means of several deservedly popular works on the subject; but vast is the work which remains still unaccomplished; indeed, it would seem to be a task to which there are no limits.

It is my most earnest desire to see a more general recognition of the importance of a scientific application of chemistry to agriculture; and being convinced that the future prosperity of the country is, to a great extent, involved in such a recognition, I will, indeed, be gratified if, by the publication of the following pages, I have in any degree contributed to awaken a spirit of enquiry amongst the cultivators of the soil on this most important subject.

CHARLES A. CAMERON.

DUBLIN, 17, ELY-PLACE,
15th October, 1837.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.