

matter acts like a sponge in the soil, and holds a certain amount of water, which is very desirable, especially in light soil in a dry season. Organic matter in the soil also blackens it and, therefore, makes it warmer. We all know that we wear black coats in winter to absorb the sun's rays, and light coloured clothes in summer to throw off the same rays and keep us cooler.

ARTIFICIAL FERTILISERS.

While organic manures, such as farmyard manure, compost material from the garden refuse, etc., are essential, and while they supply a certain amount of the essential plant food elements, they do not as a rule supply sufficient of them to support such enormous plant growth year after year that gardeners must obtain from the soil, and it is here that the artificial fertilisers come in to help.

Generally speaking, they do not supply organic matter to the soil, but they do supply the other lacking elements—nitrates, phosphates and potash. For instance, nitrate of ammonia, nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia supply nitrates. Superphosphate, basic slag and bone manures supply phosphates, and sulphate of potash, nitrate of potash, potash salts, kainit, and fresh burnt wood ash supplies potash.

HOW TO APPLY.

If one can obtain a plentiful supply of rich, well-rotted farmyard manure there is every reason to expect bumper crops from its application, but there may be a danger that an overdose of it may lead to over leafy crops, say in onions, celery or potatoes, and a moderate supply of it with the addition of some phosphatic and/or potassic fertiliser would produce a more balanced crop. On the other hand, one could hardly overdose such crops as cabbage with farmyard manure.

Unfortunately, our supplies of good organic manures are very limited, therefore to give the plants a balanced diet we must apply some of both, adding more of the fertilisers when we use poor organic manure or compost.

It is very difficult to give a correct general dressing for all crops, but one can be fairly sure to obtain reasonable crops if the following are added to the ground. For all crops, except parsnips, carrots, beet and celery, dig into the ground now about 10 lbs. of good decayed farmyard manure to every square yard, and just before sowing time broadcast the following mixture of artificial manures evenly over the surface:— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. nitrate of ammonia; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of sulphate of potash or $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of wood ash and 1 oz. of superphosphate per square yard, and prick it into the surface. The soil ought to be then sufficiently manured to grow any reasonable crop.

LIME.

As I mentioned before, lime is one of the essential plant food elements, and it must be in the soil in sufficient quantities to supply this want. It is also necessary to go with the other plant food elements, for without it it would be like you or me trying to eat our food without salt. It must also be in the soil to prevent it becoming over acid, but it must not be over abundant or it will do more harm than good. The only sure way of knowing when a soil needs lime is to get it tested for lime, and any of the local rural science teachers in the Vocational Schools or the County Agricultural or Horticultural Instructors will advise on this. There is now a cheap apparatus obtainable from most chemists which can be used with much success by the amateurs in testing soils for lime.

WEEK'S WORK.

It is getting late for the winter spraying of plums, pears, bush and cane fruits, therefore get this job done this week on the first fine calm day. Spray with one of the tar oils available for this purpose, and see that every side of every twig is covered with the wash.

Push on with the thinning of raspberry canes, and get the soil between them pricked over lightly and clean of weeds. Also get on with the transplanting of any fruit trees or bushes, and put in cuttings of bush fruits after the pruning. Dig between the bush fruits and incorporate some farmyard manure near the roots, but not up around the stems.

In the vegetable garden plant

Club Committee and Golf Club.

A GREAT FIGURE

DEATH OF POPULAR CITIZEN

With very deep and sincere regret we record the death of a most estimable citizen in the person of Mr. Thade O'Connor, which took place at his residence, "Glencullen," Ennis Road, on Monday evening after a lingering illness.

The late Mr. O'Connor, one of the best known men in Limerick, was held in high esteem and regard throughout Munster. In his business transactions as a pig dealer he had opened up connections over a very wide area, but everywhere he went, North or South, East or West, he was received with a spontaneity that denoted deep and abiding trust. It could not be otherwise, for Thade O'Connor was a gentleman whose Catholic-Christian tenets could never allow him stray for one moment from the path of honour and rectitude. Truly, he was a great personality—great in the fact that his simple faith in his fellow man was deep-rooted, his whole life being permeated and actuated by one ideal—to do not merely justice to all, but something over and above.

The deceased was a member of a family—seven brothers and one sister (now a nun)—that has been a glory and a joy to Limerick. All the O'Connor boys distinguished themselves in the athletic arena, on the playing fields of Munster and as oarsmen. Thade, with his brothers, was a member of the Garryowen R.F.C. since his school days. In his youth he was one of the Club's most promising players and in his young manhood he was instrumental on many occasions in winning the coveted Munster Cup for his team, which he captained for different seasons. His fame as a centre three-quarter spread far and wide and, needless to say, he frequently figured on provincial selections. In the athletic arena he also distinguished himself and over forty years ago the name of Thade O'Connor was familiar up and down the country as a sprinter of a very high order. He was a founder-member of the Athluskard Boat Club and in that connection it should be of interest to note that he was a member of the crew who won the first race—the Quin Cup—for the A.B.C.

But, perhaps, it was in his private life that the late Mr. O'Connor displayed his true greatness. Leading a life of simplicity, devoid of ostentation or anything savouring of humbug, he set an example worthy of emulation. A husband of rare qualities, he was a father of sympathy and dignity—traits that left their reflection in his conduct as a citizen. He has gone from our midst, but his memory will be long cherished. May he rest in peace.

We join with the general public in tendering heartfelt sympathy to the widow, children, brothers, sister and other bereaved relatives.

The funeral took place on Monday, the attendance of mourners and general public being extremely large.

The officiating clergy were:—Rev. Father McCarthy, C.C., St. Munchin's; Rev. Father Griffin, Rev. Father Godfrey, Rev. Father Ephrem, O.F.M.; Rev. Father Tronson, C.S.S.R.; Rev. Father Loughnane, C.S.S.R.

The chief mourners were:—Mrs. O'Connor (wife), Jack O'Connor (son), Misses Kay and Una O'Connor, Mrs. G. Grogarty, Mrs. R. Casey, Mrs. E. Gallivan (daughters), Messrs. Jack, Brian, Jim O'Connor (brothers), Mick, Jack (junr.), Tadgo, Coleman, Joe, Patsy O'Connor (nephews), Mrs. M. O'Brien (niece), Mrs. Jack O'Connor (daughter-in-law), Messrs. G. F. Grogarty, R. J. Casey, E. B. Gallivan (sons-in-law), J. Murnane (brother-in-law), Mrs. Jack O'Connor, Mrs. Brian O'Connor (sisters-in-law), James O'Halloran (uncle-in-law).

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ENJOYS HIS FOOD

SINCE RENNIES RELIEVED HIS GASTRIC STOMACH.

Even at three-score-years-and-ten, it is not too late to do something about indigestion if you choose the right remedy. That was the experience of Mr. Baker, whose health improved when he was once more able to digest his food. Read his letter:

"I am a retired ship's steward and cook, and since giving up going to sea, after 25 years, I suffered after meals with gastric stomach. About twelve months ago I bought a packet of Rennies to try. I took them after meals, and they did me good. I bought some more and they continued to do me good and my health improved. I enjoy my food, but I always take two Rennies after meals. I am 70 at the end of this month." H. B. Baker.

Digestif Rennies work in three ways. They contain antacids which neutralise acidity, absorbents which reduce stomach gas, and digestive ferments which actively aid digestion. Rennies become active at once, because they reach the stomach full strength—not weakened with water. All chemists sell Rennies: 7d. and 2/- box.

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