The literature on the making of compost ("synthetic", "Artificial farmyard") manure has in recent years grown to such proportions that it is impossible to summarise more than a fraction of it here. The following discussion will therefore be limited to practical aspects of controlling the fermentation; and on this subject, only some of the more important papers can be mentioned. The subject can be conveniently divided up under several headings.

(1.) Methods of Handling the Material —

Priority of place should be given to the methods of two workers who have had long experience of the making of compost on a large scale under field conditions, both of them in India. The first is that developed by Howard at Indore, and described by Howard & Wad (1931). This is a very careful method with an elaborate time-table. The technique is different for the dry and wet seasons. During the dry season the material to be composted (various types of straw, etc.) is placed in pits 8 ft. deep and measuring 30 x 14 ft. As it is loaded in, it is sprinkled with a slurry made from a little wood ashes, "urine earth" from the cattle-pen, dung, and "fungus material" (half rotted compost) from a previous heap. During the rainy season the pits become flooded and the compost is then made, from similar ingredients, in heaps 2 ft high and 8 ft square. In the case of both heaps and pits the compost is turned on the 16th, 30th, and 60th days from the beginning.