

INTRODUCTION.

It has been recognised since earliest times that crops cannot be grown continuously on one area of land without either, resting the land, or, carrying out some form of manuring, to maintain the fertility of the soil.

The types of manure used in Modern Agriculture fall into two classes. The inorganic fertilisers and the organic manures. The former has only been introduced into agriculture in comparatively modern times. Organic manures on the other hand, have been used since man first started systems of permanent arable cultivation as distinct from primitive shifting cultivation and nomadic stock keeping. In modern agriculture the extent of organic manuring depends largely upon economic and environmental factors and, in the tropics especially, upon the cost and availability of artificial fertilisers.

POTASH

This paper is concerned with the production of organic manure by making compost. No paper on this subject, however, can be complete without considering the relationship of organic manures to the soil and, the various forms of manuring. Part one is therefore devoted to this. Part two deals with the principles, and part three with the methods, of composting. In all these sections reference has been made to the literature on the subject. Part four describes the trials carried out this year on methods of making compost. The object of the trials was to find methods that would be simple, and which, at the same time, would produce good manure at low cost. The latter is of great importance at the present time. A section has therefore been included dealing with the cost of production of compost.