

FROM THE INDIAN FORESTER - ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

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WHITE - ANTS

The damage done by white-ants in India yearly is said to run into untold lakhs of rupees. The bulk of this damage is done under ground to growing crops, and no way has yet been found of successfully coping with it; though something can be done to prevent timber, railway sleepers and so on from being destroyed. It is, therefore, instructive to see that experiments recently carried out in Australia go to show that white-ants may be driven away by the use of German potash (kainit). In the antipodes the ubiquitous white-ant has developed a special weakness for fruit trees, and the Australians have ascertained that if three to four pounds of kainit per large tree are mixed with the soil and spread about the roots, the ant promptly leaves that tree in search of a more inviting locality. A powerful factor in connection with this treatment is that kainit is not only useful in warding off attacks of white-ants, but is a valuable manure in addition; so, by using it, farmers and orchardists kill two birds with one stone. As we have said, the white-ant admittedly holds sway in the agricultural tracts of India, and it is to be hoped that kainit has come at last to dethrone it - [*Capital.*]
