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# Transactions

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PART 2.

### BASIC SLAGS: THEIR PRODUCTION AND UTILISATION IN AGRICULTURE.

#### A GENERAL DISCUSSION.

At the Meeting of the Faraday Society held on Tuesday, March 23rd, 1920, in the Rooms of the Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W., a GENERAL DISCUSSION took place on "BASIC SLAGS: THEIR PRODUCTION AND UTILISATION IN AGRICULTURE." **Professor F. G. Donnan, F.R.S., Vice-President**, presided over the Discussion.

**Sir Robert Hadfield, Bart., F.R.S.**, President of the Society, who opened the proceedings, before inviting Professor Donnan to take the Chair made a Statement relative to the part the Faraday Society had taken in 1916 and 1917 in the initiation of the movement which led to the formation of the Nitrogen Products Committee of the Munitions Inventions Department, the Report of which was recently published. The Statement is printed in the Appendix, together with a copy of letters which had been received from the Ministry of Munitions.

**The Chairman:** The Members of the Faraday Society are very much indebted to Sir Robert Hadfield for pointing out how well we have done during the war. The Faraday Society certainly did very important service in directing the attention of the Government to synthetic nitrogen production, and had the war lasted another year,

a very large factory or factories would have been built for that purpose; but, as it is, I may safely say without revealing any secrets, that very important things are going to happen in this country, all of which I think we owe to the stimulus of the Faraday Society. It is very appropriate that Sir Robert Hadfield should have referred to this question, because there is no more important subject in any country than the supply of a cheap and abundant supply of nitrogen fertilisers. These, together with other fertilisers such as phosphatic products and potash salts, are of vital importance.

We have a long list of papers, some of them by the most distinguished agricultural authorities in England, and I will begin by calling on **Dr. E. J. Russell** to open the Discussion, and give us a general survey of the subject.