SOIL FERTILITY.

Micro-Organisms Explained.

By Professor J. A. Presented before the Field Naturalists Society. 1907.

The study of soil is one of the most important branches of agriculture, for it is the basis of all plant growth. The soil contains bacteria and other micro-organisms that are essential for the health and productivity of plants. These organisms break down organic matter and release nutrients that are needed for plant growth.

After it had been shown that the fertility of the soil is due in part to the activity of these micro-organisms, it became clear that soil management practices should be aimed at maintaining a healthy population of these organisms. This is achieved through proper tillage, irrigation, and use of organic amendments. The presence of these micro-organisms is critical for the decomposition of organic matter and the release of nutrients that are essential for plant growth.

The importance of micro-organisms in soil fertility is also evident in the process of nitrogen fixation, where bacteria in the soil convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form that can be used by plants. This process is essential for the production of food, as nitrogen is a critical nutrient for plant growth.

The study of soil fertility and the role of micro-organisms in it is a growing field of research, with new discoveries being made all the time. The importance of maintaining a healthy population of micro-organisms in the soil cannot be overstated, as it is crucial for the health and productivity of our crops and livestock.