

THREE BOOKS ON AGRICULTURE.

- (1) *Fertilisers and Crops, or, The Science and Practice of Plant-Feeding.* By Dr. L. L. Van Slyke. Pp. xiv+734. (New York: Orange Junn Company; London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1912.) Price 2.50 dollars.
- (2) *Farm Dairying.* By Laura Rose. Pp. 303. (London: T. Werner Laurie, n.d.) Price 6s. net.
- (3) *Fungoid Diseases of Agricultural Plants.* By Prof. Jakob Eriksson. Translated from the Swedish by Anna Molander. Pp. xv+208. (London: Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, 1912.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

(1) THE system of soil depletion as practised in the United States of America and in our colonies is beginning to receive serious consideration from the agricultural economist. The continuous growth of grain crops and the failure to make any adequate returns of plant food to the soil soon lead not only to a lack of food reserve, but also to the loss of those organic compounds which are of such importance in the production of crops in dry regions. This in itself is deplorable enough, but even where manure is to be had much of its fertilising value is wasted. Dr. van Slyke puts forward the interesting computation that the annual loss caused by the careless treatment of the manure produced by the different farm animals in the States is equivalent in value to an annual wheat crop in that country, or to 700,000,000 dollars.

With a view to minimise this and similar losses caused by haphazard use of artificial manures, this book has been written, and is designed to meet the requirements of farmers and classes in agricultural colleges and high schools. The treatment is such as to lay a foundation in the general principles relating to soil fertility and plant nutrition, and to stimulate a desire on the part of the reader to know more about the subjects discussed. In this way it would serve as an introduction to special treatises on agricultural chemistry, soil physics, plant physiology, soil bacteriology, &c.

The four parts of the book each contain a number of chapters under the heading of factors of soil fertility, sources and composition of materials used as fertilisers, factors in the selection of fertilising materials, and the practical use of fertilisers in the growing of individual crops. The last part is distinctly valuable from the grower's point of view.

The book is copiously illustrated and is to be warmly recommended for anyone interested in the production of farm and garden crops.

- (2) The second publication would appear to be
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intended for a large and general class of readers, viz., the members of farm households. The subject matter is divided into fifty-two chapters, and deals in a brief manner with many questions, not perhaps vital, but incidental to success and comfort in farming. The book contains advice on the general arrangements of farm buildings, the care and feeding of the cow, butter- and cheese-making, milk-testing, and the treatment of the common diseases of cattle. In perusing this book one cannot help feeling that much of the space occupied by minor issues might well have been devoted, with much advantage, to a more detailed treatment of farm operations; for instance, the mixing of limewash is given as much prominence as the discussion of feeding rations. The book is well illustrated and might possibly conduce to a better understanding of farm and dairy work.

(3) Prof. Eriksson's work will be welcomed by agriculturists and horticulturists as a valuable contribution to our literature on the subject. It is intended, primarily, as a practical guide for planters and to enable them to recognise, prevent and battle with diseases often occurring in practice. Bacterial and fungal diseases of common farm and garden crops are admirably described and preventive and remedial measures are treated in detail. A special chapter deals with unexplored diseases, whilst a useful appendix of diseases, arranged according to the host plant, is included.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHY.

- (1) *The Land of Goshen and the Exodus.* By Sir Hanbury Brown, K.C.M.G. Second edition. Pp. 92+2 maps. (London: Edward Stanford, 1912.) Price 3s. net.
- (2) *Rambles in the Pyrenees and the Adjacent Districts, Gascony, Pays de Foix and Roussillon.* By F. Hamilton Jackson. Pp. xii+419. (London: John Murray, 1912.) Price 21s. net.
- (3) *The Oxford Country.* Its Attractions and Associations described by several authors. Collected and arranged by R. T. Günther. Pp. xvi+319. (London: John Murray, 1912.) Price 7s. 6d. net.
- (4) *Man and his Conquest of Nature.* By Dr. M. I. Newbigin. Pp. viii+183. (London: A. and C. Black, 1912.) Price 2s. (Black's School Geography Series.)

(1) SIR HANBURY BROWN takes the opportunity of this second edition of his study of the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to deal with some of the criticisms met with by the first edition. The subject is one which has received attention from a number of writers in