

## BOOK NOTICES.

FARM WEEDS OF CANADA, by George H. Clark, B. S. A., and James Fletcher, L.L.D., F. R. S. C., F. L. S., with illustrations by Norman Criddle. Published by direction of the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, 1906, 4to, pp. 103.

It is seldom indeed in this country that so beautiful and useful a book as this is published by a Government Department, and we may therefore all the more heartily congratulate Dr. Fletcher on being enabled to produce this admirable volume. The name of Mr. Clark appears upon the title-page as copied above, but his share in the authorship seems to be limited to a single introductory page. To Dr. Fletcher is evidently due the entire credit for the literary and scientific part of the work, and to Mr. Criddle for the exquisite coloured plates, 52 of weeds and 4 of seeds.

At the outset of the volume an account is given of the losses to farmers caused by weeds, and full and clear instructions for their extermination are provided; weeds are defined and classified, and a clear explanation is given of the botanical terms necessarily employed in the work. The rest of the volume is taken up with descriptions of all the important weeds that trouble the farmers, especially in the newer Provinces of the West; the common English as well as the scientific names are first given in each case, then follow a list of the Provinces it infests, a description of the plant, time of flowering, method of propagation, situations in which it occurs, the injury it causes, and the best remedy to be adopted for its eradication. In the great majority of cases clean farming and a short rotation of crops are the remedies recommended, but where carelessness has allowed the land to be seriously infested special methods have to be resorted to.

With this work to refer to, no intelligent farmer should have any difficulty in identifying the weeds with which he has to contend, nor should he be at a loss to know in what manner he can successfully wage war upon them. With the plates alone, so beautifully true to nature are they and so artistic as well, any ordinary weed can be identified, and reference may then be made to the description that accompanies them.

Whether the work is for sale to the public, or is to be obtained only by application to the Ottawa Department of Agriculture, is not stated. No doubt every one who farms many acres will wish for and should have a copy. Weeds allowed to go to seed are not only an injury to the man in whose fields they occur, but are a menace to his neighbours in all