

fertilizer. Whoever is interested in this matter, and every farmer should be so, may inspect the ears in our office.)

IRON SLAG.

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The supplement of the *Thueringer Landboten* brings a noteworthy article by the practical farmer, A. Armstadt, under the heading: "The Future of the Iron Slag." The author first notes that iron slag has risen to be the most generally used fertilizer containing phosphoric acid only in consequence of an immense amount of advertising, but now it seems to be about to lose much of its reputation. Even the German Agricultural Society will earnestly declare against it in its next publication. "I myself," says A. Armstadt, "have never been enabled to feel any enthusiasm for iron slag in consequence of my experiments with it, and I have frequently on various occasions declared this, and it is a satisfaction to me that numerous reports are now appearing which confirm my observations. First of all, the fact that people come to doubt the theory of a gradual enrichment of the soil thereby will cause it to lose credit. Men of science, as is well known, gave out the notion that the soil must gradually be enriched with phosphoric acid in order that rich crops may be raised. Iron slag was said to be the most suitable for this purpose, not only because the phosphoric acid in it is cheapest, but also because phosphoric acid in this form would in time become more soluble. But most farmers have waited probably in vain for the after effects. I myself have never found any after effects. According to the latest experiments, it is not only probable but pretty well established that every enrichment of the soil with phosphoric acid in mineral form is a waste, for it passes into a form difficult of solution, so that it cannot any