

able supply of potash, German potash salts, are always soluble in water, but it is different with phosphates. In natural phosphates, the phosphoric acid is always insoluble and very slowly available, and a large portion of the potash is also fused with silica into a sort of glass, and consequently of little value as plant food. All these points should be fully considered in buying, as they make the value of the goods. In the use of chemical manures, it is well to bear in mind that on tilled soil they can be applied at any time without danger of any considerable loss. In fact, it is advisable to apply early in the spring as possible. On frozen ground they would, of course, wash off, but as soon as the land has opened is the correct time to use minerals. This is of greater importance the shorter the period of growing weather. In the north, fall fertilizer applications are not as effective as in the south.

THREE GOOD BOOKS FOR HORSEMEN.

We are indebted to Vinton & Co., Limited, the well-known publishers of London, England, for copies of new editions of Sir Walter Gilbey's excellent contributions to live stock literature of a recent date. In view of the reviving interest in horse-breeding in this country the new editions of this author's three books on the horse reach us at an opportune time. The first of them is, "The Great Horse," or a history of the war horse of the Roman Invasion till its development into the Shire horse of the present day. It was first published in 1889, and a second edition has become necessary. In it the author has presented in a concise and very readable form "the main facts concerning the origin and development of this truly noble and most useful animal, and points out the true type of the 'Shire Horse.'" In his work on the Harness horse, the second of the three books in review, we find a great deal of information which is particularly interesting to us at the present time. A statement in the introduction strikes us as being remarkably apt. It is said that history repeats itself, and Sir Walter Gilbey points out that on the establishment of railways in England it was seen that the coaching era was at its close, and it was thought that the harness horse would no longer be required. The breeding of horses was consequently abandoned by the farmers just as they have done recently in this country on the introduction of electric carriages and railways. But, as was the case in England fifty or sixty years ago, so it will be in Canada now. The farmers are beginning to realize that the demand for good horses is still as active as ever it was, and there is no doubt it will outlast our time at all events. The "Harness Horse" is a history of the hackney of the present time. It is now in its third edition, and should be of great interest to every owner and admirer of this splendid type of animal. The last of the three is "Young Race Horses" (third edition) and is equally as interesting and instructive as the others. Sir Walter Gilbey's great experience as a breeder of horses and all kinds of stock qualifies him to write intelligently and sympathetically upon these subjects which are evidently very near to his heart. The whole three books should be read by every horseman.

Publishers' Desk.

Metal Shingles.—The Metal Shingle and Siding Company, Limited, of Preston, Ont., call attention in this issue to their "Safe Lock" Shingles. The success of the company last year and the exceedingly bright prospects for this year's trade has necessitated many improvements and additions to the company's buildings and plant. They have recently erected a new building 50 x 112 feet, and added machinery for the manufacture of a complete line of metal ceilings and interior decorations, and also of standing seam roofing. From what we know of the company we are confident their patrons will find them satisfactory people to deal with.

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