

BOOK NOTICE

The Insect Guide. By Ralph B. Swain. Illustrations by Suzan N. Swain. New York, Doubleday & Co., Inc. 261 pages. \$3.00.

As a guide to the principal families of insects of North America, north of Mexico, this book accomplishes its purpose very nicely. The beginner in entomology, or the general reader, is bound to come away with some orderly understanding of insect classification. Representatives of 175 families in 26 orders and two suborders are illustrated, mostly in color. By a simple numbering system the reader is then referred to the relevant text. In lay language the text provides some of the important distinguishing characteristics of the family and some of the general habits of the immature and mature forms. The economic importance of the family is also recorded. This simple, orderly presentation is an outstanding feature of the book. Outstanding also are Mrs. Swain's fresh and life-like illustrations.

There is an informative introduction to the guide. The place of insects in the phylum of Arthropoda is explained. The relationships of insects to plants, animals and man are discussed. Important basic features of structure, growth and development are illustrated and explained. Much of Doctor Swain's enthusiasm for his vocation is woven into the pages, adding interest to the text.—F. A. SORACI.



Soraci, Frank A. 1948. "The Insect Guide by Ralph B. Swain." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 56, 108–108.

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