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A PARTIAL REVIEW.

In looking over some recent literature received at the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, I was especially interested in a volume of the "*Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma, published under the Authority of the Secretary for India in Council. Diptera Nematocera (excluding Chironomidae and Culicidae)*". By E. Brunetti."

This faunal work is rather extensive, comprising a series of which thirty volumes have been published to date, including twenty treating of entomology, and is a credit to its authors and editors. The volume or part in question is the first one of the series to be devoted to Diptera, and it is easy to predict, that if the following issues upon this order are of the same character, the dipterological students of India will have an excellent treatise on their fauna.

A monograph of the Diptera of North America on these lines would

be a work well worthy of the best abilities of its authors and editors. Surely the natural history of India is not nearly so well known as that of North America, and yet, here is this "Fauna of British India" coming out, of which entomology is already the major portion. Of course, such a work is incomplete. Should we wait until such a time when it would be complete? No; for as the author of this volume says, "many new species . . . will with certainty be discovered, but it seems reasonable to assume that for some little time to come the wants of the . . . student in the groups monographed . . . will be tolerably well met in these pages."

The preface, glossary and introduction given in this part, are alone a mine of information, and should prove of interest to every dipterist, especially the junior students. It is these pages that most interest me and prompt me to write this notice. Anyone, reading over the introduction can, of course, see conservative England in the author's methods and ideas, but he has shown the independence naturally developed from being associated with persons and things of a place far away from the direct influences of the mother country. Such an author is compelled to rely more upon himself, and his work is, on that account, of more interest, but will cause more criticisms, both just and unjust. As to the work in question, I have no criticisms of much import to make, partly because I am not considering the work in its entirety. Not being well versed in the Nematocera, I will not attempt to review the systematic part, but confine myself mainly to the introduction. Thus my title, "A Partial Review."

This introduction is practically a manual of dipterological taxonomy, although "a general introduction to the whole order . . . is not contemplated . . . in this volume." I find his remarks on collecting and mounting of the most interest, especially the methods of collecting, which will prove of value to many of us Americans. I agree with him, in most respects, as to his remarks on the mounting, especially as to the objection to gluing specimens on slips of cards. Every specimen, both large and small, should be pinned, and he rightly recommends pinning through the pleura obliquely instead of through the dorsum. His recommendations in this respect, will not appeal to those desiring an artistically arranged collection, but the sooner the collector and student recognizes the advantages of these methods and adopts them, as well as that of keeping the specimens dry and clean, the more rapidly will the study of this order progress. I should think that even the glossary and introduction alone, of this work, if published in a pamphlet form, would be a useful guide to collectors and students who desire to have material which will not be thrown away when it comes to be worked up for determinations.

There is one point I happen to notice wherein the author is decidedly wrong. It is in his use and explanation of the term "praefurca,"

of which he says that Mr. Verrall uses the term for that portion of the second vein between its origin and the origin of the third vein, but that in the present work the term is used in Osten Sacken's sense, who, he says, applies it to the whole of the second vein as far as the fork, which is beyond the origin of the third vein. In fact, Verrall uses the term in exactly Osten Sacken's sense, viz.: "the portion of the second vein between its origin and the emission of the third longitudinal vein." The portion beyond, to the fork, Osten Sacken terms the "petiole of the first submarginal cell." In the preface the author explains his use and understanding of the term "cotype." It is to be regretted that he used this term at all for his species, but as he explains his meaning of the term, there need be no misunderstanding. He is wrongly under the impression that his term "neotype" had never been proposed before, but he fortunately uses it in practically the same sense as originally proposed by Cossman.* The insertion of text figures illustrating the principal characters of the species described, is an excellent feature, as it is in any work, but could be used less sparingly here to good advantage, although the work is fairly well accompanied with good plates. In his treatment of some of the nomenclatorial situations, he has shown some of his independence and conservativeness, and will no doubt be criticized in this respect by some of his colleagues. On the whole, I think the style of the work is excellent, and I trust the subsequent issues, treating of Diptera, will be of like character.—E. T. CRESSON, JR.

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE STATE COMMISSION OF HORTICULTURE, Sacramento, California, is a journal which, since its initiation last year, has been nearly replete with entomological articles. The latest issue, comprising Nos. 1 and 2 of volume ii, contains more than 350 pages. It bears the title, "The Injurious and Beneficial Insects of California," by E. O. Essig. The number is profusely illustrated from drawings and photographs, many of which are by the author and are for the first time published, or, have appeared only in one or two of the western journals. This issue should certainly prove of value, not only to the fruit-growers of California, but also to those of other states, at least on account of the excellent illustrations which have not heretofore appeared in the literature.—E. T. C. JR.

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S LOG-BOOK AND DICTIONARY OF THE LIFE HISTORIES AND FOOD PLANTS OF THE BRITISH MACRO-LEPIDOPTERA, giving many thousands of facts and data connected with the appearance of the ova, larvae, pupae and imagines; methods of capture; habitats; food plants; authorities; synonyms; etc., in Latin and English throughout, and interleaved for private notes. By ALFRED GEORGE SCORER, Fellow of the Entomological Society; member of the Royal Agricultural

* *Essais de Paleoconchologie comparée*, 1896, pp. 2, 3.



Cresson, E. T. 1913. "A partial review." *Entomological news, and proceedings of the Entomological Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 24, 283–285.

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