

BOOK NOTICE.

AMERICAN INSECTS—By Vernon L. Kellogg, Professor of Entomology in Leland Stanford Jr. University. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 29 West 23rd Street. 604 pages.

Ten years have gone by since the publication of Prof. Comstock's "Manual for the Study of Insects," which during that time has become the recognized text-book for students of North American Entomology. There hardly seemed to be any need for another work of a similar kind, and we took up this new book by Prof. Kellogg with the feeling that there was no "long-felt want" demanding to be filled. However, on examination, "American Insects" proves to be an excellent work, and we can heartily recommend it to all who are interested in the classification and natural history of insects. It is written in an agreeable and attractive style and can be referred to anywhere by the ordinary reader without fear of being disheartened by purely technical language. There are, of course, many pages on anatomical structure, development and metamorphosis, which must necessarily be scientific and somewhat difficult for the unlearned, but the greater part of the large volume is clear and simple and most interesting to every Nature Student.

The first three chapters present the scientific introduction to the study of Entomology and will well repay a careful perusal; the next twelve treat of the seventeen orders of insects, proceeding from the Aptera to the Hymenoptera. Keys are given to the families, and a large number of species are figured and described. The concluding chapters are most interesting, dealing with the inter relation of flowers and insects; the significance of the colours and patterns in which insects are arrayed, including "mimicry" and protective resemblance, and up-to-date information on disease bearing insects. An appendix furnishes concise directions for collecting and rearing specimens. The book is profusely illustrated with thirteen coloured plates and over 800 figures in the text—a large number of these are excellent drawings made expressly for the work by Miss Mary Wellman.

The author states that the book is written "in the endeavour to foster an interest in insect biology on the part of students of natural history, of nature observers, and of general readers." He has certainly well fulfilled his task, for no one can take up the book and open it anywhere without becoming deeply interested in the subject treated of, whatever it may be, provided, that is, that he has any love at all for living creatures, any interest in the myriad forms and modes of life of these wonderful beings that are everywhere about us.