

We entirely agree with the author in his closing words: "In the case of too many naturalists the dogma or creed of natural selection has tied their hands, obscured their vision, and prevented their seeking by observation and experiment to discover, so far as human intelligence can do so, the tangible, genuine, efficient factors of organic evolution."

AMERICAN SPIDERS AND THEIR SPINNING WORK. A natural history of the Orbweaving Spiders of the United States, with special regard to their Industry and Habits. By Henry C. McCook, D. D. Vol. I. Published by the Author, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1889. 4 to., pp. 372.

The author of this sumptuous volume is so well known from his valuable and interesting works on the natural history of various kinds of Ants, and his charming little book, "The Tenants of an old Farm," that any productions of his pen are looked forward to with lively anticipation and keen interest. We are quite sure that no one of the subscribers to this, his latest and greatest work, has been in the least degree disappointed by this first volume of the promised three. Though spiders are not insects, we have no doubt that every entomologist, and indeed every lover of natural history in any of its departments, will deeply enjoy the perusal of this volume. We cannot give a better idea of its contents than by mentioning the subjects treated of. They are, first, the general classification, structure and spinning organs of spiders; the construction and armature of Orbweavers' snares; the characteristic forms and varieties of snares; unbeaded orbs and spring snares; the engineering and mechanical skill and intelligence of spiders; their modes of procuring food and habits in feeding; their fangs and poison bags; their modes of nest making and its development in various tribes; and finally the "genesis of snares." All these different subjects are fully illustrated with more than three hundred and fifty wood cuts. The second volume is to treat of the mating and maternal instincts, the life of the young, the distribution of species, etc.; and the third will be devoted to descriptions of the orb weaving fauna of the United States, with coloured illustrations of a number of species. The whole will form one of the most complete works of the kind in the English language. Entomologists will need to have long purses if they wish to possess all the literature of the day, and to procure for themselves such costly and beautiful books as Scudder's and Edwards's Butterflies and McCook's Spiders. We trust that all who can possibly afford it will aid the authors in their self-sacrificing enterprises by subscribing for their books, but those who cannot do so should us