

BOOK NOTICE.

MANUAL OF NORTH AMERICAN DIPTERA, by Samuel W. Williston. Third edition, illustrated; 405 pages.—James T. Hathaway, 297 Crown Street, New Haven, Conn. (Price \$4.00, postpaid.)

During the last twelve years the earlier edition of this work has been found most useful by professional Entomologists, whether engaged in teaching or in economic work, and has served as a daily handbook for the few students of the order. To all of these it must be a source of much gratification that the author has been enabled to complete this comprehensive and excellent manual, which will be no small help to them in their work. The assistance that it will render to all who attempt to study the Diptera of North America is so great that it should lead many to devote themselves to the investigation of the much neglected but highly important Two-winged Flies.

The present edition contains definitions of about twelve hundred genera, being all that are known from North and Central America and the West Indies, with the exception of a few doubtful forms; more than half of these genera are more fully defined by means of nearly a thousand photographs and carefully drawn figures, which are an immense help in the determination of forms. Of sixty-one families synoptic tables are given, preceded by a table of the families themselves. By means of these and the explanatory figures, a student should be able, after a little practice, to "run down" to its genus any fair-sized fly, and after gaining experience in this way to enter upon a careful scientific study of any family to which his attention may particularly be drawn. The Introduction deserves to be read by all Entomologists, who will find the observations and advice contained in it of great interest and much value. This is followed by a series of chapters on the structure of the various parts of the insects, the head and its organs, the thorax, legs, wings, etc., and the vestiture, which is of so much importance in the differentiation of many forms.

The author has been assisted in his work by all the well-known North American Dipterists, few in number though they be, and he and they are to be congratulated upon the completion of a work which should give an immense impetus to the study of this difficult order. A copy of the book should certainly be in every scientific library, and no professional Entomologist can afford to be without it.

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