

information contained within it on the life histories and economic relations of the beetles that are more or less destructive to Indian forests.

Some idea of the vastness of the subject may be gained from the author's statement, quoted from J. S. Gamble (Manual of Indian Timbers) that "the Indian forests contain some 5,000 different species of trees, shrubs, climbers and bamboos"; for here, as elsewhere, the number of species of insects corresponds more or less closely upon that of the plants on which they feed.

The material for the present work was chiefly gathered by the author since 1898 while acting in the capacity of Imperial Forest Zoologist and Member of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dan, India.

The first five chapters deal with the more general phases of the subject, such as the distribution of forest insects in India (Chap. I), the methods by which the presence of insect pests in the forest can be ascertained, the general methods of control and the characteristics of the order Coleoptera. The special part treating of the various families and species of beetles, which are arranged according to Lefroy's *Indian Insect Life*, comprises the remaining 27 chapters. It deals with a very large number of species, about most of which very little is known; but the life histories of not a few of the more destructive species have been worked out by the author, and their economic relations, methods of control, etc., are given in considerable detail.

A good many of the species noticed are of no economic importance, all species showing any definite relation to trees or tree-products being included, on account of the necessity, on the part of the forester, of being able to recognize such species and distinguish them from the truly injurious forms.

There are no keys, but descriptions of all the species dealt with are given and a very large proportion are figured. Unfortunately a great many new species are described, an undesirable feature in an economic treatise. This was perhaps difficult to avoid, however, in the present work, as it is possible that the publication of so many new species in the regular journals might have caused serious delay in the issue of the book.