

BEETLES OF NEW ENGLAND AND THEIR KIND; a guide to know them readily. By Edward Knobel. Boston: Bradlee Whidden, 18 Arch street. (Price, 50 cents.)

Every collector of insects naturally desires to obtain the names of the specimens that he has procured. Any work that will help him in this respect is to be welcomed, and no doubt many a beginner will be glad to know of this cheap "Guide to Beetles," whose brief descriptions and hundreds of wood cuts will enable him to identify many of the conspicuous specimens that he meets with. It is a praiseworthy attempt to popularize the collecting of insects, and will, we trust, encourage many after they have found out the names to go on and study the life-history and structure of these interesting creatures. It implies a singular want of care to find that so many of the names are incorrectly spelt, when a reference to Henshaw's List would so easily have prevented a defect of this kind.

#### NOTES ON BUTTERFLIES.

Years ago, when Mr. Edwards made his interesting experiments with chrysalids of *Phyciodes tharos* by exposing them to a low degree of temperature, artificially produced, the results obtained in the way of suffusion in the butterflies emerging from them led one to look for like results from similar out-of-door exposure. The climatic conditions this year in this locality were especially favourable for such results. A period of unprecedented heat, from May 13-18, was followed by a cold wave of a week's duration, accompanied by two frosts.

On the second of June I found a specimen of *P. tharos* fresh from the chrysalis and much suffused, the ground colour of the wings above being almost black, with a thin sprinkling of orange-coloured scales and two or three orange-coloured spots near the base of each, and a sub-marginal row of orange-coloured crescents on the secondaries. It is considerably darker than any figured by Mr. Edwards on Plate II. of *Phyciodes* in his "Butterflies of North America." The capture is interesting, as the specimen must have been in the chrysalis state during the cold period.

On the 30th of May I took a fresh specimen of *Feniseca Tarquinius* in Malden, and another on the 17th of June in Wollaston. Both of these localities are within three miles of Boston. So far as I know these are the first instances of its capture in Mass., east of the Connecticut River valley.