

excellent and satisfactory as the volume before us. Dr. Weed has selected some five and twenty more or less familiar insects, and in a pleasant manner has given some account of their life histories. The chapters are quite independent of each other and arranged in no particular order; the book may therefore be opened at random, and the sketch that may be hit upon read without any detriment to the continuity of the work. Some of them which deal with such creatures as the leaf miners are naturally very brief since so little is known about these tiny foes to vegetation, but of other species which have been subjects of particular study on the part of the author we find long and full descriptions. Among the latter may be mentioned the interesting account of the hibernation of aphides, the chapter on "harvest spiders, the "army worm," etc. Anyone, young or old, who has any desire to read about the wonderful creatures that inhabit the world and to know something about their modes of life cannot fail to be pleased with this book, and to be led on we should hope to make his own observations of their curious habits and strange doings. The volume is handsomely illustrated with twenty-one full page plates and nearly 100 figures in the text.

C. J. S. B.

INSECTS AND SPIDERS: Their Structure, Life Histories and Habits. By J. W. Tutt. 1 vol., pp. 116. (1 shilling). London: George Gill & Sons, Warwick Lane, E.C.

In the annual report of the Entomological Society of Ontario for 1896 much attention was paid to the subject of teaching natural history, and especially entomology, in schools, and the desire was expressed that some hand book might be drawn up for the assistance of teachers in rural schools. The volume before us is the very book that is needed, if only it dealt with Canadian instead of British insects. In England "Object lessons" are a compulsory part of the curriculum in elementary schools, and the teachers are required to give their pupils a series of simple lessons "adapted to cultivate habits of exact observation, statement and reasoning." These lessons are to be "on objects and on the phenomena of nature and of common life," and a wide discretion is thus left in the hands of the teacher. In the country schools of Ontario no subject could be more useful than the study in this way of the commonest species of injurious and beneficial insects, and no subject is likely to compare with it in interesting the pupils. A further advantage is the ease with which specimens can be obtained and their life histories traced. Mr. Tutt's volume is admirably adapted for the use of teachers in providing lessons of this kind. After giving a general account of the external structure of insects, their internal organs and metamorphoses, he devotes the "lessons" to typical common species of each order, giving similar particulars regarding the individuals and any general facts of interest that bear upon them. Each insect treated of is also illustrated with plates and wood cuts. It is not, however, a text-book for pupils, but is meant for the instruction and equipment of the teachers, affording them an excellent foundation upon which to frame the instructions they are to give to those committed to their charge.

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