

it describes in very clear language the methods by which the elementary student may familiarize himself with and study the structure, life-history and classification of insects. An excellent key to the different orders is given; in the preparation of this key the authors have been fortunate in securing the helpful criticism of the leading authorities in the various orders, thereby rendering it increasingly valuable and accurate.

In a book of this nature there are naturally a number of points which, if space did not forbid, we might discuss. It is unfortunate that "oesophagus" should be mis-spelt throughout the book, and surely "axe" does not, even on the ground of simplified spelling, deserve to have the "e" chopped off (p. 337). The so-called "rasp-like" character and "rasping" function of the labial lobes of the house-fly and blow-fly (p. 18) are mistakes which have crept into entomological literature due to an incorrect interpretation of the nature of the pseudotracheæ resulting from lack of actual observation and careful examination. The statement that "no true gills, that is, gills carrying blood vessels, like those of fishes, are found in insects," whilst strictly true, might be misleading in view of the possession by larval Chironomids of respiratory filaments containing blood spaces and similar in function to the gill filaments of fishes. Among the minor mistakes we notice "*Corisidae*" (p. 108), "Torie" (p. 305) and the laying of Fig. 434 on its side. We are of the opinion that some mention of such important facts as parthenogenesis and the alternation of generations, etc., would have enhanced the biological side of the book.

The book is well illustrated with nearly five hundred figures which have been selected with considerable care from good sources, and we note with no regrets the absence of many old acquaintances which have been rightly allowed to enjoy their well-earned rest. To all, whether they be teachers or students or those merely desiring to learn something about insects, we recommend this book most heartily.

C. GORDON HEWITT.

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THE FLIGHT OF BIRDS.—By F. W. Headley, M.B.O.U. With sixteen plates and many text-figures. Witherby & Co. 326 High Holborn, London; 163 pp. Price, 5s. net.

"The Flight of Birds" is the first book which has come to our notice dealing exclusively with the science of flight from an ornithological viewpoint. It is only within recent years that the subject has had much attention from naturalists, and this chiefly by European ornithologists. The subject seems not to have been studied to any extent in a systematic way on our own continent.