

THE GENERA OF NORTH AMERICAN MELANOPLI: By S. H. Scudder. (Proc. Am. Acad. of A. and S. V. 32, pp. 195-206, January, 1897.)

Almost simultaneously with Dr. Scudder's "Guide to the Genera of Orthoptera" two other important and extremely useful papers appeared, one on "*The Genera of North American Melanopli*," and the other on "*The Species of the Genus Melanoplus*." These are both really advance issues of chapters in Dr. Scudder's great work on the Melanopli, which is to be published by the U. S. National Museum. The *Melanopli* are divided into thirty genera, seventeen of which are new and four have been previously published by the author. The genus *Melanoplus* is characteristically American and is widely disseminated. There are 131 species recognized, grouped under twenty-eight series. The name *furcula* is given to the processes of the last dorsal segment of the male abdomen.

J. F.

THE BOOK OF BRITISH BUTTERFLIES: A practical manual for Collectors and Naturalists; 1 vol. pp. 247 (3s. 6d.)

THE BOOK OF BRITISH HAWK-MOTHS: A popular and practical Hand-book for Lepidopterists; 1 vol. pp. 157 (3s. 6d.)

By W. J. Lucas, B. A. London: L. Upcott Gill, 170 Strand, W. C.

Many excellent works on British butterflies have been published during the last twenty-five years and one would naturally suppose that there was little need of another book on the subject. Mr. Lucas, however, has succeeded in producing a very useful and excellent popular manual, which will be a welcome aid to those who wish to study the life history of butterflies as well as to identify the specimens they may collect in the British Isles. As it is intended for those who have made no previous study of the subject, the author begins at the beginning, telling the reader what an insect is, what place the butterfly takes in nature, how to capture, set and care for specimens, and then describes each British species from the egg to the imago in clear and simple language, and in almost every instance gives admirable drawings of the caterpillar, chrysalis and both surfaces of the imago. As there are no less than 266 figures in illustration of sixty-eight species, the collector should have no difficulty in determining any specimen of butterfly in any of its stages (except the egg) that he may chance to find. A book such as this should give a great impetus to the study of the preparatory stages of British butterflies, a section of entomology which is usually neglected in favor of the mere collection and arrangement of the perfect insects. A volume such as this on Canadian butterflies would be a very welcome aid to a large number of young people whose interest has been aroused by the beauty and variety of our species, but whose enthusiasm is dampened by the difficulty of obtaining any information about them.

"The Book of British Hawk-moths," by the same author, deals with a somewhat less familiar group, and gives much useful information that it would otherwise be hard to find. The plan of the work is similar to that of the butterfly book, and it is written in the same clear and simple style. As there are only seventeen species to deal with, the writer is able to go more fully into details respecting them and to make his work all the more complete and popular. He has also provided artificial keys to the larvæ and imagines, and tables for distinguishing the species where there is more than one representative of the genus. The fifteen plates with which the volume is illustrated are very beautiful and are admirably drawn by the author himself. Each species is represented life size, and is shown as a caterpillar on its food plant, chrysalis and imago. There are eighteen wood cuts for the most part illustrating details of structure. It is to be hoped that the author will continue his good work until he has completed the British lepidoptera, or at any rate the more conspicuous and familiar families. C. J. S. B.

LIFE HISTORIES OF AMERICAN INSECTS: By Clarence M. Weed. 1 vol. pp. 272. (\$1.50). New York: The Macmillan Company.

The publication of a popular book on insects is so rare an event on this side of the Atlantic that we heartily welcome an addition to the number, especially when it is so

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In the attention was paid schools, and to assistance of needed, if only lessons "are a are required to of exact observation on the phenomenon the hands of the useful than the insects, and no advantage is traced. Mr. J. lessons of this their internal species of each facts of interest plates and wood instruction and which to frame