

In the first chapter the author defines what is meant by an insect, and for convenience divides all insects into eight orders. In following chapters he takes these orders in turn and discusses their beneficial or injurious relationship to plants, to man and to other animals. In addition, chapters are devoted to an account of the natural forces that keep insects under control, especially where the balance of nature is not disturbed by man. Of special interest in this connection is his description of the part played by parasites, by climate and by disease in checking increase.

The author's remarks on birds are likely to cause a good deal of criticism from bird admirers. He attributes to the feathered tribe much less importance than most writers on the subject would give them. In doing so, however, he states explicitly that birds have an important function to perform in connection with insect control, but that so far as our worst pests are concerned, their value has been greatly exaggerated. If birds are of less importance than many think, much less value, he claims, is to be attributed to protective coloration than popular opinion would give it.

The part dealing with insects as carriers of disease is full of valuable information, obtained from the results of the most recent investigations. Household insects come in for a good deal of attention, nearly all the species found being discussed and remedies suggested, so that this is a very valuable chapter.

Throughout the book Dr. Smith has never lost sight of the economic aspect, and the numerous references to individual species of an injurious nature are made more valuable by the suggestions for control which almost invariably follow.

The last chapter is called "The War on Insects," and is a resume of all the most up-to-date methods adopted by man for controlling injurious species.

The value of the book is considerably increased by frequent illustrations. Entomologists will find this work a boon to them, inasmuch as it brings within handy reach a mass of valuable information that is frequently required, and that would otherwise be obtained only through much searching. The general public will find it a most interesting revelation of a new world of marvellous interest, into which they have found it difficult to get more than a mere glance in popular books. The book should be in every farmer's home, and in every school and college library.—L. C.