

It is a quarto volume of 565 pages, and is illustrated with 50 splendid plates and 440 text illustrations. Most of the plates are coloured, and it speaks well for the author and his staff that these profuse, and on the whole, excellent illustrations are mostly original.

The work covers a very wide field, and may be divided into two parts. The first nine chapters deal with insects in general, their zoological status, structure and classification, their habits and the laws which govern them; and the tenth and eleventh chapters deal with pests in general and various means of control, specially adapted to local conditions. Then follow general descriptions of different insects classified as pests of crops and grain, as household pests and as carriers of disease, and the extent to which some are beneficial and useful. One chapter is devoted to a few other animals and birds, both beneficial and injurious. An important section, and one which will be valuable to its readers, is a long list of the commonly-grown plants and crops, with the names of some 800 insects attacking them, and a list of allied plants grouped under natural orders for reference when studying polyphagous insects.

The second and main part of the book is taken up with a study of the orders of insects, dealing mainly with injurious forms under the headings of references, distribution in South India, life-history, food plants, economic status and means of control. This represents an enormous amount of information condensed to a systematic and readily available form, and the profuse illustrations are intended to facilitate the tracing out of any particular insects which may prove injurious. The fact that many of the life-histories are classed as "not worked out" should be a stimulus to entomologists in India. The book ends with a complete index.

The author is to be congratulated on a stupendous work which he confesses was undertaken unexpectedly and executed largely by the exertions of the Madras Department of Entomology in the short space of two years. As a handy and popular work on insects, the book should prove of great value to planters and those interested in entomology, and the low price of six rupees (two dollars) places it within the reach of most people.

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