

After a preliminary definition of Evolution and Darwinism, the author proceeds to consider in detail the various attacks which have been made upon the latter, for example, those based upon the insignificance of fluctuating variations; the uselessness, in the struggle for existence, of many specific characters; the necessity for coincident variation; secondary sexual characters; complete degeneration of parts; elimination of connecting forms, etc. This is followed by a statement of the arguments put forward by the Darwinians in defence of their position.

A summary is then given of the various theories of species formation which have been proposed as auxiliaries, or alternatives, to that of natural selection, e. g., panmixia, germinal selection, orthopiasy, Lamarckism, orthogenesis, heterogenesis, etc., and the final chapter under the title, "Darwinism's Present Standing," is devoted to a summing up of the situation.

The work is written in a very readable style, meets a decided need, and can be recommended to all interested in the problems of evolution.

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BRITISH FLIES. Vol. V. By G. H. Verrall, F. E. S. 814 pp. London, 1909. Gurney and Jackson.

The second published volume of Mr. Verrall's projected series is number 5 of the entire plan, and includes the following families: Stratiomyidae, Acanthomeridae, Leptidae (including sub-families Xylophaginae and Coenomyiinae), Tabanidae, Nemestrinidae, Cyrtidae, Bombyliidae, Therevidae, Scenopinidae, Mydidae, Apioceridae and Asilidae.

The treatment is full, almost encyclopædic, bringing together a vast mass of information about the various species, including larval characters and habits, as well as those of the adult, as far as the former are known. Even the families not occurring in Great Britain are provided with tables of genera and figures.

The illustrations are exceptionally fine, being drawn for this work by Mr. J. E. Collin, F. E. S. They are scattered through the text in convenient places for references, and are of a quality to delight the entomological eye, unsurpassed by anything ever presented in this order of insects.

Mr. Verrall does not accept the genera of Meigen's 1800 paper, recently discussed in this journal; in one of his notes (p. 772) he says:—"The contention that Meigen's genera of 1800 should be revived and claim priority, is on a par with the discovery of certain Chicago historians that the annulment of one of the marriages of King Henry VIII. was