

plant." In its twenty-two quarto plates, engraved on copper, is shown the cotton plant in every stage of development from the seed to the mature plant, and in its various conditions as resulting from insect attack or from disease. In association with these figures, twenty-four insects frequenting the plant are represented. Several of the species are illustrated in an agreeable prodigality, giving enlarged views of the egg, the larva at different stages of growth, the pupa, the cocoon, the perfect insect at rest and in flight, its under surface, enlargements of parts, and the more marked varieties of the larva and the imago. Although not so stated, it is believed that the edition of these Notes was no larger than the others of the series, and consequently, that only about fifty societies and individuals have been the fortunate recipients of a copy.

*The Natural History of the Agricultural Ant of Texas* is a volume of 208 pages and 24 plates, by H. C. McCook, treating at length of the habits, structure and architecture of this interesting insect. The histological details have been worked out from preparations made by Prof. J. G. Hunt.

A volume, upon which Baron Osten Sacken has been for a long time engaged, has recently been completed and published by the Smithsonian Institution. The *Catalogue of the Diptera of North America* prepared by this author and published in 1858 was simply a compilation of published names, not claiming synonymic accuracy. It contained 1,800 species, but many of the number were too imperfectly described for identification. The new Catalogue is of such merit as to deserve more than a passing mention. It is fully up to, and in itself materially advances, our knowledge of the Diptera of our country. Its author modestly regards it as only critical in part—so far as the families have been worked out into monographs, and as still remaining a mere list of reference to earlier writers, in those families which have not been studied, or in which the existing collections are to a great extent still unnamed, as in the *Culicidæ*, *Chironomidæ*, *Cenopidæ*, the group of *Muscidæ calyptera*, and the section *Asilina*. Its critical character may be seen from the statement, that of the 102 species of *Tabanus* enumerated in the old Catalogue, only 36 have been adopted in this.

An admirable feature of this Catalogue is that a large proportion of the species which it records—over 2,000 carefully described and authoritatively labelled species—are contained in the Collections of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, where every possible care is given to