

BOOK NOTICES.

THE COLEOPTERA OR BEETLES OF INDIANA: By W. S. Blatchley, Department of Geology and Natural Resources. Bulletin No. 1, State Printers, Indianapolis.

Since the publication of Dr. Holland's Butterfly and Moth Books and Dr. Howard's Insect Book, enquiries are frequently received respecting a beetle book. Hitherto there has been no work of the kind on North American Coleoptera, and it is, therefore, a great gratification to announce the publication of this monumental work by Prof. Blatchley. It is an octavo volume of 1,386 pages, and is illustrated with nearly 600 excellent drawings and photogravures.

An introductory chapter is given on the external anatomy of the Coleoptera, with explanatory diagrams. The various families of the order are then taken up, the classification being based upon that of LeConte and Horn, with the exception of the Rhyncophora, which are omitted "for lack of time and space," but which, we trust, the author will be enabled to take up in a subsequent volume. The plan of the work is to give a general introductory description of the family, followed by a key to the genera; each genus is then described in turn, and keys furnished to the species, figures being usually given to aid in recognition of the appearance or characteristics of the family or genus, as the case may be; to this succeeds a concise description of the species, with bibliographical references, localities, habits, dates of capture, etc. Nothing could well be more complete where such an immense field has to be covered. About 80 new species have been described during the course of the work. We have tested the work somewhat carefully, by taking specimens of various families and tracing out the species by means of the keys and descriptions. It has been a pleasure to do so, and to find that all necessary details are given and that the utmost accuracy prevails. A very full glossary of terms and an index to genera are given at the end of the volume.

The author has confined his work to the Coleoptera to be found in the State of Indiana, but this limitation does not impair its value for entomologists in Ontario and the States contiguous. A very large proportion of the species described are to be found within our boundaries, and the volume may therefore be safely recommended as a handbook of the order to all students in this region of North America.

The volume has been issued by the Indiana Department of Geology as a bulletin, owing to the refusal of the State Printing Board to publish