

BOOK NOTICE.

A CATALOGUE OF THE COCCIDÆ OF THE WORLD.—By Mrs. Maria E. Fernald, A.M., Amherst, Mass. Special Bulletin (No. 88) of the Hatch Experiment Station of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, 1903. One Vol., 8vo., pp. 360.

The authoress gives us in this volume a most valuable and complete catalogue of the Coccidæ of the World, the results of nearly twenty-five years of patient and careful labour. No one who has not attempted work of this kind can form any idea of the difficulties of the task, the immense number of publications to be gone over, the care and accuracy that are required and the systematic methods that must be adopted, and consequently few estimate as highly as they should the gratitude that is due to one who spends years of toil in making the way easy for all future students in the particular department of natural science that is taken up. The classification of the Coccidæ has long been in a somewhat chaotic condition; the present work will help very materially in reducing the confusion and bringing out order and system instead. Mrs. Fernald does not expect entire agreement with her conclusions, but we venture to think that few will endeavour to criticise her work, inasmuch as it has been done with such care and freedom from prejudice. In every case where changes in nomenclature are made the history of the genus or species is given by means of the full bibliographical references, and the evidence seems complete. No less than 1514 species are listed, and of each one bibliographical references are given, with the geographical distribution and food-plants when known. The volume is well and clearly printed, and its value is much enhanced by the very full index to species as well as genera with which it closes.

A COLEOPTEROUS CONUNDRUM.—There has been so great a desire to obtain specimens of the remarkable beetle described by Mrs. Slosson in the May number of this magazine, that she is compelled to say that she has only a few examples left and is unable to give away any more.

Dr. Dyar, in his zeal for the laws of priority, contends that the name jocularly given to the insect by Mrs. Slosson (*Igotus enigmaticus*) should be taken as founding a new genus and a new species. This seems absurd, when there was no attempt made to give a scientific description of the creature, and the authoress says expressly that she merely applied the name "sometimes, in chat over her discovery!"

Mailed September 4th, 1903.