

BOOK NOTICE.

INSECTA : By Alpheus Hyatt and J. N. Arms. Boston : D. C. Heath & Co.

This handy volume forms the eighth of the series of the "Guides for Science Teaching" issued by these well-known publishers of educational works. The series is intended for the use of teachers who wish to give practical instruction to their classes in Natural History. The volume before us forms a marked advance upon those previously issued, inasmuch as it consists of 300 pages, with over 200 illustrations, while none of the others were more than a fourth of these dimensions. This great enlargement is due, no doubt, to the growing popularity of entomology as a subject for the teaching of observation in schools, as well as for intelligent recreation and serious study on the part of individuals.

The volume before us is an admirable manual for teachers who wish to instruct their pupils in the science of entomology, and will be found most useful also by private students. It is full of admirable diagrams and illustrations, for the most part original, and it takes up for discussion some of the commonest insects in the different orders that can be readily procured by anyone. For instance, the external structure and the internal anatomy of insects are first taught by means of the common Locust (*Caloptenus*), which can be taken in quantities anywhere, a May-fly (*Ephemera*), a Dragon-fly, a Cockroach, a May-beetle, the *Archippus* butterfly, etc., are used to illustrate the different orders. No teacher or student need be at a loss for material with which to follow out the instructions in the book. The whole work is excellent, and we have no doubt that it will be found most valuable in the various agricultural colleges especially, as well as in other educational institutions.

We may quote the following advice from the opening chapter:—
"Encourage children to watch living locusts. . . . Better a child should learn to handle one animal, to see and know its structure and how it lives and moves, than to go through the whole animal kingdom with the best text-book, under the best teacher, aided by the best charts ever made. The former would have learned what real knowledge is, and how to get it, while the latter would have simply learned how to pass at his school examination."

Mailed January 6th.