

PREFACE.

Eight years ago the author of the present work published a small volume in which he attempted to tabulate the families and more important genera of the diptera of the United States. From the use that has been made of that work by entomological students, he has been encouraged to believe that the labor of its preparation was not in vain. The extraordinary activity in the investigation of our dipterological fauna within the past few years has, however, largely destroyed its usefulness, and it is hoped that this new edition, or rather this new work, will prove as serviceable as has been the former one. In the present work there has been an attempt to include all the genera now known from north of South America. While the Central and West Indian faunas are preëminently of the South American type, there are doubtless many forms occurring in the southern states that are at present known only from more southern regions.

In the preparation of the work the author has been aided by the examination, so far as he was able, of extensive collections from the West Indies and Central America submitted to him for study by Dr. D. Sharp of Cambridge, England, and Messrs. Godman and Salvin of London, together with the extensive collections of the University of Kansas and those from South America in the author's private cabinet, altogether forming probably the largest collection of American