

Howard, and bearing the labels, "248. 1247. 1247 ♀. Aphel. 248 do. C. H. T. Mch. 15, 10. T. Johuaimaji. Feb. 11."

Habitat.—Peru, South America.

Type.—Type No. 14026, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., 1 female in xylol-balsam (mounted with a single female of *Signiphora*).

BOOK NOTICES.

THE HOUSE FLY.

"THE HOUSE FLY," by L. O. Howard. XIX + 312 pp., 1 pl., 40 figs. Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, 1911.

One of the most extraordinary examples of the fickleness of human nature is furnished by our attitude towards the commonest of all insects. Even the youngest of us was brought up in companionship with this homely creature, and taught to regard with painful horror the iniquity of destroying, however painlessly, this permanent guest. Well might we say when introducing this volume to the public, *Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis*. From the high pedestal of kindly regard *Musca domestica* has sunk to depths so loathsome and portentous as to make even an entomologist recoil from these "winged sponges spreading hither and thither to carry out the foul behests of contagion," to quote the words of Lord Avebury, written so long ago as 1871.

The credit of first seriously attracting public attention to the possible dissemination of disease germs by the house-fly belongs to investigators in the United States. The experience of the Spanish-American war, with its excessively heavy mortality from typhoid fever, was repeated in the South African war a few years later. Circumstantial evidence has been confirmed by exact experiments, which, though in many instances they may modify primary conjectures, have shown that the house-fly, if the necessary conditions prevail, will serve as a most serious carrier of pathogenic organisms. On this account, therefore, it ranks as one of the proven disease-carrying insects, and must be included with the mosquito, the tse-tse fly and the flea in that class of insects which bear a serious relation to national welfare. No one has done more to inculcate these ideas into the minds of people, obsessed with the customary apathy, than Dr. Howard, who was one of the first to consider the house-fly and to study it in its new relation, deserving well the title of "Commander-in-Chief of the Fly-fighting Army," recently conferred upon him by a well-known journal. From Dr. Howard