

BOOK NOTICES.

THE BUTTERFLY HUNTERS IN THE CARIBBEES, by Dr. Eugene Murray-Aaron. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1894. Pp. 269.

It is a novel event in literature to have a boy's book of adventure written by an Entomologist; we were, therefore, prepared to peruse with interest the volume which Dr. Murray-Aaron has just published. Belonging, perhaps, to those whom he characterizes as the "younger old people," we were charmed beyond measure with the book, and read it through from beginning to end with as much avidity and enjoyment as any adventure-loving school-boy. It relates in pleasant, easy style, the expedition made by a couple of boys, under the guidance of their naturalist friend, "the Doctor." During the early winter months they visited several of the islands of the Bahamas, and then made a more venturesome excursion across Haiti and into Santo Domingo, winding up with a flying visit to Jamaica. Their object was to collect butterflies especially, and at the same time to gather all the animal and vegetable curiosities that they conveniently could. For an account of their success and the various "dodges" they had recourse to, especially when in pursuit of *Papilio Homerus*, we must refer the reader to the book itself. It is not, however, a mere record of the doings of collectors; a great deal of interesting information is given regarding the condition of the negro races in their barbarism where left to themselves, and their happy condition when under British rule. Much pleasant instruction may also be gained regarding the geography, scenery and government of the various islands that were visited. If any paterfamilias is looking for a book to put in his boy's Christmas stocking, he cannot do better than purchase a copy of this. If his boy has any taste for Natural History, it will delight him beyond measure. The book is handsomely printed and bound, and illustrated with several well-executed plates. The entomologist may be disappointed at the absence of lists, or names of species, and pictures of butterflies; but the book is not meant for a scientific treatise, though its statements may be relied upon as strictly accurate, the author being well-known as the Editor for a time of *Papilio*, and Curator of the American Entomological Society, at Philadelphia, as well as a valued contributor to this magazine.