

BOOK NOTICE.

"THE BUTTERFLY BOOK": A Popular Guide to a Knowledge of the Butterflies of North America ; by W. J. Holland, Ph. D., D. D., etc., New York, (also issued by Wm. Briggs, Toronto), 1898. Price \$3.

There are, I believe, few works which have appeared of late years in America which are destined to mark such an epoch in the development of American boys and girls as Dr. Holland's beautiful Butterfly Book. A most noticeable difference between the youths of Europe and America is that in the old world it is very exceptional to find any young man or woman who has not some hobby or special study to which they devote a large proportion of their spare time during the years they are at school. This extra occupation of the mind acts as a relaxation from the regular prescribed studies and has a very beneficial effect upon the development of students both mentally and physically. Some branch of natural history or athletic sports are the two directions particularly to which this energy is generally turned. Fortunately for boys and girls in Britain, France and Germany there were always well-illustrated, cheap and comprehensive works available by means of which they could identify, and learn the habits of, the insects, birds, plants and animals they wished to study. In America until quite recently there were with the exception of books on plants none of these elementary but comprehensive works and as a consequence natural history studies have been almost confined to the plant world. Recently Dr. A. S. Packard and Dr. S. H. Scudder have published delightful books on insects which have been eagerly read by our boys and girls ; but Dr. Holland's Butterfly Book surpasses easily anything which has preceded it in the way of a help for those who knowing little of natural history have yet had their attention caught and wish to know about the bright coloured butterflies which are always so attractive to everyone for their beauty of form and colour as well as for their graceful movements. The delight to be derived from a study of their habits while breeding them from the egg to maturity is at everybody's disposal but has been enjoyed by very few.