

the early part of her career ; but on this occasion, her life-work finished, there is no awakening."

The interesting and important discoveries which the author made as to the parasitic nature of the *Psithyrus* form a valuable portion of the first part of the work. We are told how the *Psithyrus* queen, protected by her coat of mail, impervious to the attacks of the *Bombus* queen, enters the home of the latter, and, after treacherously killing her, makes slaves of the workers, as she herself neither produces workers nor is provided with the pollen-collecting baskets in her hind legs.

The second part of the book describes the author's experiments in domesticating the *Bombi*, in which many types of domiciles were used. This section will prove of great value to future workers on the same lines. We should point out, in passing, that there is undoubtedly an important field of investigation in the encouragement of the *Bombi*. The economic significance of the presence of these insects where clovers are grown is now more generally appreciated, but we are not aware of any efforts having been made for the encouragement of these fertilizing agents. It is proposed to carry out in Canada investigations of the nature indicated.

In the third section of the book all the British species of *Bombus* and *Psithyrus* are described. Not only is a clear description of the queen, worker and male of each species given, and a brief description of their habits as observed by the author, but coloured illustrations render the identification of the species possible to anyone. The coloured figures, and there are five plates of them, are photographed direct from the specimens, and are undoubtedly the finest specimens of this kind of work which we have seen. The work is further enriched by the author's own drawings and photographs. The author has demonstrated, we believe for the first time, the importance of the structure of the male genitalia in separating the species and groups of species. The great variations in colour render such a method of separation of greater importance and significance. Illustrations are given of the male genitalia of the British species.

Although the author has confined himself to specific descriptions of the British forms, the book is none the less valuable to entomologists on this side of the Atlantic. From a monographic standpoint alone it is a work which should find a place on the bookshelf of every entomologist whose desires are not confined to the killing bottle and cabinet, but sit, like the fairies, astride the velvet-backed bumble bee and sail along the hedgerow, over field and forest and into every nook where insect creeps.

G. GORDON HEWITT.

Mailed November 8th, 1812.