

themselves upon the notice of young people as flowers and insects, and of these none have been so useful as a first stepping-stone or allurement to the realms of Natural History as butterflies,—“ those winged creatures of beauty which add such a charm to the summer landscape.”

There was not, however, until now any work which could be placed in the hands of boys or girls who had caught a common butterfly, by means of which they could identify and find out something of the life-history of their newly-found treasure. This want Mr. Scudder has filled with his Brief Guide, in which he treats chiefly of “ those butterflies—less than a hundred of them—which would almost surely be met with by any industrious collector in the course of a year's or two years' work in the more populous Northern States and in Canada.” Should a young collector, therefore, be lucky enough to capture a butterfly not mentioned in the book, he may be sure that he has taken a rarity, which, as the author remarks, is “ a discovery not always distressing to the amateur.” The introductory chapters, upon some of the points which will at once present themselves to a beginner, are excellent—concise, clearly expressed and accurate, and treat of such subjects as :—What are butterflies? their structure, habits, variations, and life-histories. There are three keys for identification, based on the perfect insect, the caterpillar and the egg, and pages 63 to 174 are taken up with short accounts, systematically arranged, of the insects treated of. There is a short glossary and an appendix giving instructions for collecting, rearing and studying butterflies.

On the whole this is a very useful little work, well prepared, convenient in size, well printed and well got up. It is, of course, arranged after the same system as Mr. Scudder's great work, “ The Butterflies of the Eastern United States and Canada,” and many of the views there expressed are repeated here. The nomenclature is also the same, but the names more frequently used by other authors are also given. A good feature of the work is that the proper pronunciation of every name is shown by accents, and a popular English name is given for each species. The author's observations on dimorphism of some species, as of *Colias Eurytheme* and *Papilio Ajax*, do not seem quite to agree with those published by Mr. W. H. Edwards. It would be difficult, however, to treat such subjects fully in the space allotted to each species in this Brief Guide, which, we think, all who use it will agree is too brief, and they would like much more of it, of the same style.—J. F.