

for the separation of the families and genera, and in some cases the species. On account of its great size, the order Acarina (mites and ticks) is necessarily dealt with more briefly than the other groups, only the superfamilies being defined. Less space, for example, is given to this group than to the *Phalangida* (Harvestmen), a much smaller order.

In chapters II. and III. the external and internal anatomy respectively, of spiders, are discussed in considerable detail. A special section of the former is given to the description of the different types of male pedipalps, whose highly-complex structure is of great taxonomic importance, and has been a subject of special investigation by the author. Following the description of the different kinds of spinning glands at the close of chapter III. is a table, giving the names of these glands, with their number, the position of their spinning-tubes, their distribution among the various families and their functions.

Chapter IV. is an account of the life of spiders, and deals with this subject under a number of headings. Much attention is given to the description of the different kinds of silk and their functions, the types of webs, and to the structure and building of the orb type of web. The account of the development is rather brief, the embryological part being omitted altogether. This is, of course, to be expected in a popular work, but the "Spider Book" is more elaborate than popular works usually are, and we therefore think that a brief outline of the early stages of development would not have been out of place, considering the important bearing which the development of some of the organs, such as the book-lungs, tracheæ and spinnerets have upon the phylogeny of the group.

The systematic part of the book, comprising chapters V.-VII., is enlivened by interesting notes on the habits peculiar to the various families and genera, and by the numerous illustrations. Brief descriptions of many of the commoner species are given, as well as keys to all the families and genera inhabiting North America.

The copious illustrations, which are largely photographic reproductions of living or recently killed specimens and their webs and nests, are scattered throughout the text, and give the book a very attractive appearance by reason of their unusual excellence.