

THE SARCOPHAGIDÆ OF NORTH AMERICA. *Sarcophaga and Allies in North America*. By J. M. Aldrich. Memoir of the Thomas Say Foundation of the Entomological Society of America. Lafayette, Ind., 302 pp., 16 pls. (Published November 30, 1916.)

This attractive volume constitutes the first Memoir of the Thomas Say Foundation of the Entomological Society of America, and it is peculiarly appropriate that it should be the work of the Editor of the Foundation. At the Columbus meeting of the Entomological Society of America in December, 1915, a standing committee was established under the name of "The Thomas Say Foundation," the purpose of which is "for the publication of works of a monographic or bibliographic character on the insects of North America." The establishment of this Foundation is the outcome of a proposal made to the Society in 1913 by Mr. Nathan Banks. As its success must depend on the financial assistance it receives from those interested in its publications, it is to be hoped that generous support will be forthcoming from all who desire to assist in the production of a series of monographs on American entomology somewhat similar to the well-known monographs of the Ray Society.

Dr. Aldrich could not have selected a more desirable group for monographic treatment than the Sarcophagidæ. Entomologists have been confronted for some time with the almost hopeless task of identifying the species of this group of flies, the discovery of whose diverse habits has demonstrated how important they are from biological and economic standpoints. The flies are larviparous and the habitats of the larvæ range from decomposing animal substances and excrement, to the bodies of warm-blooded vertebrates. They appear to show an interesting transition from the habit of devouring dead insects to parasitism upon living ones.

Only those who have endeavored to identify the species of *Sarcophaga* will appreciate the difficulty of using the old descriptions, and Dr. Aldrich (and with his work we would couple the excellent work of Dr. R. R. Parker in the same group) has endeavored