

THREE RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST TO ENTOMOLOGISTS

Two interesting and valuable books (from the Macmillan Company, New York) have appeared during the summer. "The Biology of Insects" by George H. Carpenter, Keeper of the Manchester (England) Museum. The subject is accurately described by the title. It is distinctly different from the general run of books on insects. Classification of insects is restricted to a single short chapter and anatomy is treated only when necessary to explain function. The author states the aim of the book as an attempt "to demonstrate insects as living organisms." A list of the nineteen chapter headings will give the reader a good idea of the ground covered: Introduction, structure and function; Feeding and Breathing, living cells and protoplasm, blood and circulation, absorption, excretion; Movement; Sensation and Reaction; Behavior, Instinctive and Intelligent; Reproduction and Heredity; Growth and Transformation; Family Life; Social Life; Adaptations to Haunts and Seasons; Classification; Evolution; Insects and Other Organisms; Insects and Mankind. The work, tho thoroly accurate and scientific in its treatment, largely avoids strictly technical terms. One who has had no entomological training whatsoever should find the book entirely clear. It is a decidedly readable and worth while book. It is well illustrated by sixteen plates and eighty-eight text drawings. These, where not original, have been drawn from the entire world, many from American publications, giving to the book a cosmopolitical viewpoint.

"Spraying, Dusting and Fumigation of Plants" by A. Freeman Mason. The first half of the book is a treatment of fungicides and insecticides and is thoroly up-to-date. In the second half of the book the author mostly takes up each family of economic plants and attempts to treat of the chief insect pests and fungous diseases. The space devoted to each crop is necessarily brief. Of interest to Floridians is his chapter on Citrus. This is not strictly up-to-date, aphids especially are not even mentioned. The grower of truck crops in Florida will look in vain for some of his most destructive insects. On the whole, however, this will prove a very valuable reference work.

In "Leaf-Mining Insects" by Needham, Frost and Tothill (The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore) the authors bring together the hitherto scattered literature on this subject. The life history

and biology of the insects are treated fully. This makes not only an invaluable reference book but a very readable book as well. Very complete lists of insects, bibliography, and indices add to the value of the book.

THE MEXICAN CHICKEN BUG IN FLORIDA

By W. S. BLATCHLEY, Dunedin, Florida.

On July 20, 1928, I received from Prof. J. R. Watson a half dozen specimens of a bug belonging to the bed-bug family, Cimicidae, which had been taken near Lakeland, Fla. Prof. Watson stated that a number of years ago he had taken the same bug near Tavares, Lake County, and that "it is probably widely distributed in Florida but not common anywhere." He added: "I take it to be the chicken bed-bug, but am surprised not to find it in your book," (Heteroptera of Eastern North America).

Prof. Watson was correct in his surmised common name of the insect. I found it to be No. 839 of the Van Duzee Catalogue, viz., *Haematosiphon inodorus* (Duges), commonly known as the "Coruco" or Mexican chicken bug. As Van Duzee gives its distribution as "New Mexico, Texas, (Mexico)" and as I had no knowledge of the Tavares, Fla., record, I did not include it in the Heteroptera, which covers only the territory east of the Mississippi River.

The insect was originally described¹ in 1892 as *Acanthia inodora* by Dr. Alfredo Duges, of Guanajuata, Mexico. Champion, in 1900,² founded for it the genus *Haematosiphon*. C. H. Tyler Townsend states³ that in southern New Mexico "it is an unmitigated pest of poultry, swarming in great numbers in the hen-houses, infesting the inmates and roosts, and covering the eggs with the black specks of its excrement. By day the Corucos stick to the hen-houses and roosts, awaiting the return of the hens at night. It also spreads from the hen roosts to dwelling houses, where it proves to be more formidable than the common bed-bug. About the only way to keep poultry uninfested is to keep them entirely out of doors and not to house them at all."

¹La Naturaleza, (2) Vol. II, 1892, p. 169, pl. VIII, figs. 1—7.

²Biol. Centr. Amer., Heteroptera, II, p. 337.

³Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash., III, 1894, p. 40.