

THINKING OF US

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THE CAXTON PRESS
CHRISTCHURCH

BOOKS

New Zealand Insects

FRAGMENTS OF NEW ZEALAND ENTOMOLOGY, by G. V. Hudson; Ferguson and Osborne; £3.

(Reviewed by David Miller)

FRAGMENTS of New Zealand Entomology, by the late G. V. Hudson, is a well set up book, written mostly in popular vein; it contains 188 pages in nine chapters; it is excellently illustrated by 19 plates, 17 of them in colour; there are also four text figures and a portrait in memory of the author.

The first chapter of 23 pages brings together all available information on the New Zealand glow-worm, and is a useful contribution on a subject of general scientific and public interest. The next five chapters deal with habits of many insects, including beetles, weevils, ichneumon-flies, two-winged flies, moths and butterflies, lacewings, stone-flies, dragon-flies and cicadas. A special feature is that the many adult insects illustrated are often accompanied by illustrations of their larvae and pupae.

Of the 27 species of beetles and weevils dealt with, 19 are illustrated, stress being laid on the remarkable colour variations that occur in the one species as shown on plate 14. The longest chapter of 50 pages is presented as a second supplement to the author's *Moths and Butterflies of New Zealand*; 120 species are discussed, six of them being described as new. A chapter of 29 pages is devoted to an account of all the known cicadas; this is a valuable compendium of the subject. Then follows a chapter (seven) giving some general miscellaneous notes on a few other insects, together with some hints on collecting, preserving and observing, and an interesting, though all too brief, account of entomology in Wellington 60 years ago.

Chapter eight deals with insect swarms on mountain tops. Chapter nine discusses some aspects of modern methods in entomology, and is provocative in parts; for instance, the author's comments on professional entomologists are rather dogmatic and inconsistent in that his book relies so much on the professionals. In other respects this chapter contains much basic truth, such as the author's attitude toward amateurs with which one wholeheartedly agrees—they should be encouraged, for not only did they lay the foundations of the science, but also they still are, and must remain, a very important influence; again, a proper note is struck in regard to the multiplication of scientific terms, especially in cases where everyday English would serve. A list of the author's publications

forms an appendix, but the list is not complete. There is a detailed index.

The book is not a general work on entomology; about three-quarters of it really consists of matter supplementary to four of the author's other books, and as such is a valuable contribution. It will be useful to professional and amateur alike, as well as to school teachers. It is the last footprint in the long journey of an outstanding entomologist.

TRAFFICS AND DISCOVERIES

THE OXFORD JUNIOR ENCYCLOPAEDIA, Vol. 4, Communications; general editors, Laura E. Salt and Robert Sinclair; Geoffrey Cumberlege-Oxford University Press. English price, 30s.

THOSE who are accustomed to work with words may be a little disconcerted to discover that in this latest volume of the *Junior Encyclopaedia* the communication of ideas is dealt with in just half the space given to the more mechanical business of getting from one place to another. Ships and shipping, railway systems and locomotives, cars and aircraft—and a profusion of related illustrations which should make this volume one of the most popular with the junior school—occupy just on two-thirds of the 496 pages. It seems a generous allocation of space when one is aware that in two volumes yet to be published (*Industry and Commerce and Engineering*) there is likely to be a good deal more about the same subjects.



G. V. HUDSON

At one or two points it might even be called over-generous. It is probably valuable to know something about the buckeye coupling (indeed, it might be a good thing if our own Railways Department knew more about it), but in the present volume the space given to it would almost suffice for a brief discussion of the International Phonetic Script, which (like Grimm's Law) is not listed at all. More incongruous is the inclusion of a brief summary of the case of the Marie Celeste, in which communication almost reached absolute zero.

For those who have in recent years taken an increasing interest in mass communications—press, film and radio—the most serious criticism that could be made of the present volume is the omission from it of any reference to films as means of communicating ideas. Indeed, the omission is so complete as to seem almost intentional—in two and a half columns of letterpress on Propaganda and Advertising, for example, there is not a single word to suggest that the cinema plays any part in these activities, though such other propaganda outlets as "newspapers, pamphlets, leaflets, periodicals, postal circulars, public meetings, loud-speaker vans, and radio broadcasting" are detailed. Nor are there any cross-references pointing back

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