

will, in the first instance, appeal especially to British students, but from one point of view they may still more court the attention of students elsewhere, for, when specimens are unattainable, good descriptions and figures are an exceedingly welcome substitute. Every one must value the facilities for work provided by the elaborate synoptic tables.

Those who can remember the devotion to natural history of the late Mr. Wilson Saunders and the vast and admirable collections of insects which he accumulated from all parts of the world, may be disposed to believe that his son, the author of the present work, was born as well as bred an entomologist. The name of Edward Saunders, to those acquainted with his lifelong studies and with his previous writings, will be an ample guarantee that in this book also they will find the most conscientious accuracy and all the thoroughness of treatment that the subject admits. It is commonly reported in England that the revenue officers of the United States levy duty upon meteorites which descend from the sky, but probably the hemiptera pass the frontier without the least regard to tariffs, or quarantine regulations, or laws against the importation of destitute aliens. How little, then, can the free-trade precincts of Great Britain and Ireland hope to defy the invasion of any new bug that may choose to enter! But, at any rate, the collector who finds within those precincts one of the Hemiptera that has not been described in the volume now under review, may well suspect that it has been recently introduced into them from without.

In a work so sumptuously printed one may be permitted to wonder why there is no index to the plates and why no references are given in the text to the excellent figures which those plates contain. As a matter both of good taste and convenience it would surely also have been better to give in full the names of authorities, instead of such abbreviations as Muls. and Put. for Mulsant and Puton. The reader may find a chance of guessing that Boh. and Fall. stand for Bohemann and Fallen, but Lap. and Spin. and Duf. find no explanation within the four corners of the book itself. The title, "Hemiptera Heteroptera," is quite

justified by the usage of other authors, and Hemiptera seems really a better title than the alternative Rhynchota, but in the division of the order into Heteroptera and Homoptera it is very unsatisfactory that the names applied to the suborders should have the same termination as that appropriated to so many orders of the Insecta. A protest may be made, too, against the use, now becoming common, of the word "asymmetrical." Those who are discontented with "unsymmetrical" ought to write "asymmetric," and be pedantic at both ends of the word. From misprints and similar blemishes the volume is very agreeably free, although there is some obscurity in the account of *Corixa*, which is said to contain twenty British species divided into four subgenera, whereas the synoptic table shows six subgenera and twenty-five species, to which a twenty sixth is doubtfully added in the descriptions.

The zeal of collectors will be stimulated to find again such prizes as *Aradus Lawsoni* and *Pygolampis pidentata*, or the greenish black *Prostemma guttula*, with scarlet legs and elytra, and antennæ pitchy brown. But the study of the group has more to commend it than the tantalizing rarity of some of the species. It is no little advantage that a great many of them are on the contrary common and easy to obtain. They do not, it is true, flaunt themselves in mid-air like butterflies or birds, but rather keep themselves quiet on trees and various lowlier plants, in mosses, in ponds, and other retreats, from all of which they can without much difficulty be induced to come forth. The search for Hemiptera is pleasantly united to the observation of plant-life, and when a collection has been made, the curious shapes and bright colors of the specimens are likely to be associated with treasured memories of holiday excursions, fair scenes, and delightful rambles, that have been enlivened by this quest. Few of those who make themselves acquainted with Mr. Saunders' volume will continue to despise the Hemiptera, and few of those who take any deep interest in the Hemiptera will care to be without Mr. Saunders' volume. THOMAS R. R. STEBBING.

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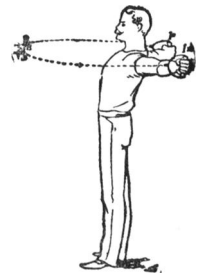
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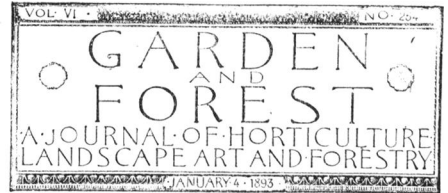
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