

to gather in flocks about October. The number I should judge, would be well up in the thousands and it has materially increased ever since. They fed principally on corn and dead animals and also on garbage in the towns. Every time we had a cold spell hundreds of them died. I am told that the place where they have been in the habit of roosting (McGavin's) the ground is now (Feb. 10, 1918) covered with dead crows."

Mr. William Holmes residing about 4 miles below Chatham, relates that there was a great flight of crows in 1904, large numbers remaining all winter feeding on the corn left standing in the fields, or in the fields in stooks. Thousands died. As Mr. Holmes protected the crows on his property, his orchard of 400 trees was "literally packed, and the ground underneath (was also) packed, and the pigs (were) busy every day for weeks eating the frozen and blind, as there seemed to be a disease of the eyes, a white film growth over the eyeball. Though they seemed healthy and strong (they) would walk around as blind as a bat." They remained with him until late in the spring.

There is no doubt but that the affection from which the crows were suffering was the same as that

described by Eldon Howard Eaton* as occurring in the Canandaigua Crow Roost of New York State in December, 1901. This disease he determined to be "roup," and his description of "the eyes" being "usually blinded by a membrane forming over the exterior of the cornea" agrees accurately with Mr. Holmes' description given above. Eaton states that the disease did not appear either "in the Rochester roost or in that near Niagara Falls" . . . "the disease disappeared with the coming warm weather." The last evidence of it noted by Eaton was on April 6. He states "it is probable that one thousand crows died of this disease during the last winter in Ontario county."

Both Mr. Johnston and Mr. Holmes believe that the crows assisted in the spread of the San Jose scale, which Mr. Johnston states was first introduced into the orchards along the Lake Erie shore on nursery stock from the United States. Mr. Holmes informed me that the scale made its first appearance in his orchards the summer following the great flight of crows, and in spite of all his endeavors to check it, in three years' time it had "won out." The whole orchard along the river was killed.

M. Y. WILLIAMS.

*Auk, Vol. XX, 1903, pp. 57-59.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

CLASS BOOK OF ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGY, with special reference to the economic insects of the Northern United States and Canada. Philadelphia: P. Blakeston's Son & Co., 436 pp., 257 illustrations; price \$2.50.

We were much pleased to see this new volume on insects, prepared by one of our own members—one who is held in high regard by entomologists generally not only throughout Canada, but the United States as well. The volume is a class book of Economic Entomology, with special reference to the economic insects of the Northern United States and Canada. It is a companion volume to Reese's book on Economic Zoology. It is divided into four parts: Part I, discusses the structure, growth and economics of insects; Part II, the identification of insects injurious to farm, garden and orchard crops, etc.; Part III, the classification and description of common insects; Part IV, the control of injurious insects.

Briefly, this new book on Economic Entomology is one which undoubtedly will be well received. It will certainly find a useful place among economic students. The descriptions are concise and to the point, the illustrations well chosen and the printing excellent.—A.G.

THE WORKS OF J. HENRI FABRE. Translated by Teixeira De Mattos. N.Y., Dod, Mead & Co. The writings of the great French naturalist, J. Henri Fabre are only now becoming widely known though the writer was a contemporary of Darwin. To those who do not understand French, these works are now available in their entirety by the English translation.

To the entomologist of the old school who studies nature for the wonders of her works rather than for the shekels which are now offered to a professional student, these volumes will prove a delight, which we believe, has never before been equalled in the realms of science. Nor should they be neglected by the professional who will discover in their contents, details in observation in methods of study and in habits that must prove of great value even to the most proficient.

It is, perhaps, enough in this short notice to say that these works are teeming with facts presented in a manner that only a Frenchman seems capable of, and this lucidity seems to have been fully maintained by the translator.

These works are, to all intents and purposes, without technical language and deal with a great range of subjects as will be noted from the following titles already published: "The Life of the Spider",

"The Life of the Fly", "The Mason Bees", "Bramble Bees and Others", "The Hunting Wasps", "The Life of the Caterpillar", "The Life of the Grasshopper", "The Sacred Beetle and Others".

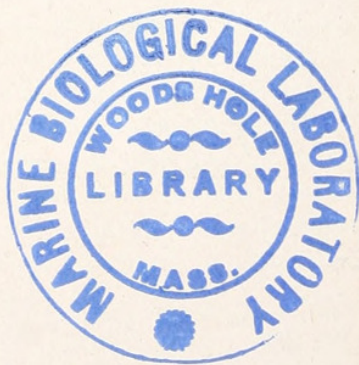
To review such a remarkable series of works in so short a space is impossible nor has it been attempted. It is enough to say that under each title are provided the life habits of many different insects told with a charm that turns the tedium of ordinary technical science into the wonders of a fairy tale, and yet in the transformation does not at all overstep the realms of truth.

These writings should prove a source of delight alike to the young and grown-ups, and for the parents who wish to instill a knowledge of nature into their children, free from the too common imaginary teachings of to-day, we know of no books that should prove more suitable or more readable, than those of J. Henri Fabre.—N. C.

KEY TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FLORA, by P. A. Rydberg, Ph.D., Curator, New York Botanical Garden: Published by the author; price \$1.60 post paid.

When Dr. Rydberg published his "Flora of the Rocky Mountains and Adjacent Plains," which was

reviewed in "The Ottawa Naturalist" a year ago, field botanists immediately felt the need of something less bulky than a large volume of more than 1,100 pages. Dr. Rydberg has now filled this want in a manner that will please and satisfy both field and herbarium botanists. The recently published Key is a reprint in a somewhat different form of all the keys published in the Flora, and these keys with an excellent glossary and index make a handy little volume of 306 pages of 5x8 inches and less than half an inch thick which can be carried in any ordinary pocket. The Key may in this way be used independently of the Flora and fresh growing specimens be studied before they are collected. Another use to which the Key can be put is in the listing and checking of local floras, an initial letter or some arbitrary sign being used to indicate particular localities, countries or provinces. As the Key covers not only the flora of the Rocky Mountains, but also that of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and the Kootenay Districts of British Columbia, it should be in the hands not only of all western botanists but of all school-teachers, ranchers, farmers and others who are interested in knowing the names of the flowers which grow near their homes.—J. M.





Criddle, Norman. 1919. "The Works of J. Henri Fabre [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 33(2), 41–42. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.337885>.

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