

Ancient Artizans. The Wonders of the Insect World. By Stuart Ward Frost.
Boston, The Van Press, Publishers, 1936. 8 vo. 295 p. 152 illus. \$3.50.

It would be interesting to know how individual entomologists came to be interested in entomology. I mean the spark that actually set them off. Did they read something that aroused their interest? Did a professor present the subject so glowingly that, then and there, they decided to embrace the science? Did a friend take them on a collecting trip? Did they acquire their liking, after visiting a museum? Did they enter entomology accidentally through another field? Were they fascinated in their youth by a glamorous display of butterflies on exhibition in the shop window of a German barber, as I was?

All of which speculation was aroused by reading in the preface of Dr. Frost's book that his purpose is to introduce to laymen some of the interesting habits of insects. This is a laudable purpose, no doubt, but I wonder if Dr. Frost didn't actually write his book because it pleased him to do so, because he is intensely interested in his subject and because of his enthusiastic admiration of the things that insects do?

"Insect Artizans" is interesting and easy to read. The insects are humanized and in seventeen chapters the author writes entertainingly of such a diverse crew as foragers, wanderers, hunters, agriculturists, masons, carpenters, spinners, tailors, miners, aviators, paper makers, divers, wax workers, garbage collectors, fishermen, musicians and assassins. At the end of each chapter there are references to the literature for the use of readers who wish to go further.

After enjoying Dr. Frost's book, I thought—what a pleasant way to enter entomology, through accurate accounts of the astonishing things that insects do, and I hope that his work will fall into the hands of readers who are thirsty for more.

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