

south eastern portion of European Russia. He concludes that this black colour is due to an accumulation of vegetable matter from the herbaceous plants of the poorly drained steppes of the post-glacial deposits which overlie the loessoid clays, so difficultly permeable to water. At the close of this paper he draws attention to the close correspondence which exists between the climate of Russia and that of the prairie land of Minnesota, and suggests the probable similarity of the soils of these regions.

"The above analyses make it to appear that the Tschernozem and the soil of the Red River prairies are similar in chemical composition ; they occur in the same latitude, with the same general relief and climate, and from the above quoted authorities are judged to have a similar geological history ; may they not, therefore, be properly considered as of the one variety of soil, " Black Earth."

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#### BOOK NOTICES.

SCUDDER, S. H. A Brief Guide to the Commoner Butterflies of the United States and Canada. 12mo., 12 + 206 pp. Henry Holt & Co., New York.

In our August, 1892, number we gave notice of a Butterfly book for boys which Mr. Scudder had in preparation. We took occasion then to point out the advantage of all young people having some hobby in natural history, and looked forward with pleasure to the early appearance of this work, which should, we thought, act as a first stepping stone from which young students might find an easy entry to one of the most attractive fields of study offered to us by Mother Nature. Such a book, which was much wanted, has now been prepared by Mr. Scudder in his characteristic manner, and has been published by Messrs. H. Holt & Co. as a neat duodecimo of convenient form, well printed and got up. This little work treats only of the commonest butterflies, such, in fact, as any energetic collector in the Northern States or Canada is pretty sure to take within a year or two. It is to be followed by a more complete Manual of the Butterflies of North America, north of Mexico, to be issued at an early date, and prepared in a similar style to Gray's Manual of the plants of the Northern States. Mr. Scudder's Brief



Guide will, we believe, be the means of inducing many to take up the study of butterflies, who have been prevented from doing so for want of a suitable and accurate book. The introductory chapters, treating generally of the nature, structure and habits of butterflies are very concise, covering the ground well, and with the concluding chapters where instructions are given for the collection, preservation and rearing of insects, provide the beginner with all that is necessary to make him a good naturalist. J. F.

SCUDDER, S. H. *The Life of a Butterfly*. 12mo. pp. 186, 4 plates.

Under the above title Mr. Scudder has written in untechnical language a charming little book, in which while recounting the life-history of the Milk-weed Butterfly, he compares it with other species and succeeds in condensing into a remarkably small space an account of the most interesting features in the lives of the whole tribe of butterflies. It has been prepared for the general reader, and the hope is expressed that it "may perhaps gain for butterflies the serious study of some who had before looked at them as merely pretty creatures,—types of the frivolous,"—we feel sure that it will do this and much more besides. We recommend it heartily to all boys and girls of healthy mind, to naturalists and to thoughtful readers. J. F.

## ENTOMOLOGY.

Edited by J. FLETCHER.

*Hypomolyx pineti* Fabr. This large pine-weevil has not been previously recorded from our district, but a dead specimen, in good condition, was found at Casselman (June 10th) in the leaf of a pitcher-plant. Among the contents of leaves examined *Cytilus sericeus* appeared very frequently. A small, pale crustacean was also not uncommon, and seemed to thrive in its prison cell. W. H. H.

*Adimonia rufosanguinea* Say. At the Mer Bleue this pretty little Chrysomelid was very abundant upon *Kalmia augustifolia*, and occurred also occasionally on other plants. Hitherto I had generally taken this species upon the wild cherry. W. H. H.

*Aphodius prodromus* Brahm. This European beetle appears to be extending its range westward. Dr. Horn, in his monograph of the sub-family (1887,) recorded it from Maine and Montreal. Several



Fletcher, James. 1893. "A Brief Guide to the Commoner Butterflies of the United States and Canada, by S. H. Scudder [Review]." *The Ottawa naturalist* 7(6), 96–97.

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