

*Insects Abroad.* By Rev. J. G. Wood. Illus. [George Routledge & Sons. \$4.00.] This stout octavo is a companion volume to Mr. Wood's *Insects at Home*, with which many of our readers of scientific tastes must be familiar, and which was devoted to a description of the insects of the British Isles exclusively. In the present work, the same method is applied to the insect world of the Americas and other continents around the globe, its aim being to show the important part taken by insects in the economy of natural life, and especially the value and usefulness to mankind of those which we are accustomed to call destructives. The first eighteen chapters are devoted to the "coleoptera," or beetles; the next four to "orthoptera"; then six to "hymenoptera," three to "lepidoptera," two to "neuroptera," and one each to "hemiptera," "homoptera," "diptera," "thysanoptera," and "dermoptera," or earwigs. The text is full of interest for all lovers of the curious and hidden life of nature. It is one comfort to learn from Mr. Wood that even the mosquito has his use, being an article of food in some parts of the world. Indeed, it is rather startling, to say the least, to learn how extensively insects of all sorts are used for food by the more savage peoples of the earth. Eight hundred and sixty insects are actually described by Mr. Wood, and, of these, six hundred are depicted by means of engravings, both sketches and descriptions having been made from actual specimens. It is a further interesting bit of information, that the engraver inspected all these specimens before touching a single block, and that the more than three hundred drawers of insects in the British Museum furnished the materials for the author. The work, we may add, is the twenty-third in Mr. Wood's series in Natural History. Few men have done more than he to popularize the study of it in the best way.