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**Insects. Ross E. Hutchins. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey:
Prentice- Hall, Inc., 1966. xii, 324 pp. \$6.95.**

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in No. 3, pp. 57-60. Other misspelled words and an occasional incomplete sentence may be found. No. 4 is labeled as Vol. 1, no. 3 above the table of contents. Despite these 'birthing pains,' the A.M.E. *Newsletter* has had a favorable start with some good material, and we wish it luck in the future.

R.S.W.

INSECTS. Ross E. Hutchins. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1966. xii, 324 pp. \$6.95.

Contemporary entomological writing usually falls into one of two categories: general "picture-books" designed for youngsters, and learned monographs and specialized publications that are generally unavailable and incomprehensible to the layman. *Insects* fills this gap, and interprets modern findings for the advanced amateur, the adult lay public, and even offers insights into aspects of entomology that a professional entomologist, devoted as he is to a specialized field, will find to be new and interesting.

In simple, everyday language Dr. Hutchins spins his accounts of insects and their ways, with emphasis on behavior, form, and function in such chapters as The Aerialists, Insect Migration, The Water Realm, The Hunters, The Farmers, The Builders, The Paper and Tent Makers, The Nectar Gatherers, The Pollinators, Chemical Warfare, and others.

In these chapters we are told how to calculate the temperature, based on the rate of chirping of various crickets and katydids; we learn that the paper nests of *Polistes* wasps have been used as wadding in muzzle-loading firearms; and we delight in his accounts of air-conditioned termite mounds, of ants that dwell in the thorns of acacia trees, of beetles, roaches, and crickets that live in ant nests, the secret of Mexican jumping beans, of ants that use their heads to plug the entrances to their homes in twigs. Many more vignettes of the lives of a wide variety of insects are included.

The book is more meaningful to us because it deals largely with the North American fauna, and each topic is illustrated with carefully chosen examples. Dr. Hutchins almost always identifies the insect under discussion with a common name, scientific name, and, a very welcome feature indeed, the family and order name. The author does not "write down" to his audience, but explains each facet lucidly and introduces such terms as pheromone, tropism, hemolymph, chitin, stridulation, diapause, polyembryony, bromatia, trophallaxis, and circadian rhythm, in a way that makes the account more challenging and stimulating.

Numerous photographs by the author illustrate the text. All are of excellent quality, but the use of dead specimens in unnatural poses (such as the painted lady butterfly on page 82) is regrettable. Many of the photos were taken indoors, with plain backgrounds, when a more natural outdoor photo would have been more appealing. The photographs

of some insects, presumably in flight, are not very convincing.

The book has been well edited and contains few errors, but some of the more obvious mistakes should be mentioned here. On page 277, the photograph of a larva of the spicebush swallowtail, *Papilio troilus*, is actually of the black swallowtail, *P. polyxenes asterias*; the introductory drawing to chapter 12, on page 224, is upside-down; the eastern tent caterpillars in the photo on page 200 were given the correct scientific name, but the caption incorrectly identifies them as forest tent caterpillars. A few other minor errors of fact and spelling occur, but these are to be expected in a general work of this nature.

The preface is most unfortunate. After stumbling through half of it, and just before giving up hope for the entire book, I discovered that Dr. Hutchins did not write it. Instead, it was penned by Joseph Wood Krutch, the consulting editor and a nature writer of wide experience. The first sentence will illustrate my reason for dismay: "God must have loved the insects he made so many of them--just how many nobody knows because new ones are being found and named every year; perhaps even every day." Fortunately, the book is written much better than that. Indeed, *Insects* is a valuable contribution to lay entomological literature, and is highly recommended.

J.P.D.

BRIEF NOTICES

COMPLETENESS IN SCIENCE. Richard Schlegel. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1967. xvi, 280 pp. \$7.50.

"To what extent can science describe and explain the natural world--including ourselves? Are there intrinsic limits to the methods of science that make an adequate scientific description impossible, or can we expect that science will eventually give us a complete account of the universe?" These are the problems discussed by Schlegel in this provocative work. Scientists, as well as historians and philosophers of science, have long debated the topic of limitations. Schlegel, who is a professor of physics at Michigan State University, has stated old problems in a fresh and interesting manner. Every scientist who thinks at all about his profession must, or should, be concerned about the questions Schlegel asks and the conclusions he reaches.

THE WAY OF THE SCIENTIST: INTERVIEWS FROM THE WORLD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. Selected and annotated by the editors of *International Science and Technology*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1966. 382 pp. \$8.95.

This volume is a collection of personal interviews with leading scientists and technicians in various fields. All have appeared as articles in the journal *International Science and Technology*. Such figures as Leo Szilard, C. P. Snow and Glenn Seaborg talk about what scientists think of science, the place of science in today's world, problems of ethics, scientific education and a host of other topics.