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The Flies of Western North America. F.R. Cole, with the collaboration of Evert I. Schlinger. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1969. xi, 693 pp. $25.00.

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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE

THE FLIES OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICA. F. R. Cole, with the collaboration of Evert I. Schlinger. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1969. xi, 693 pp. $25.00.

Knowing of the excellence of the author's work especially as an artist of Diptera, entomologists have been waiting for this much-needed volume since the completion of the first manuscript in 1932. The work deals with two-winged flies (Diptera) of North America west of the 104th meridian, south of the 70th parallel and north of Mexico, but including Baja California. There are 38 double-columned pages of introductory matter, keys to families and genera, notes on species and the localities from which they are known, a glossary, selected bibliography, and index to species. There are some 180 of the author's beautiful drawings of flies as well as many illustrations from other sources.

Great caution will be needed in using this work. There are unfortunately many errors in spelling of names, beginning with "philicornis" for *pilicornis* on the frontispiece. The keys in several instances are adaptations of keys which have been superseded. The bibliography includes nothing later than one reference dated 1963. It is recommended that names be checked in Stone et al., 1965 (*A Catalog of the Diptera of America North of Mexico,* U.S. Dept. of Agr., Agr. Handbook no. 276) before using them. The *Catalog* is referred to in the text many times, but no citation of it appears.

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THEORIES ON THE NATURE OF LIFE. Giovanni Blandino, New York: Philosophical Library, 1969. xiv, 374 pp. $6.00.

In a short span, this encyclopedic work summarizes the historial problems of the nature of life. Blandino conducts his narrative in a condensed and highly-packed form that assumes the nature of an outline. His own ideas are explained in the second part of the book. In the author's words, his conception is that vegetative biological phenomena (1) are material deterministic phenomena and therefore, in order to produce them, fixed laws inherent in matter are both necessary and sufficient; (2) are regular, specific phenomena and therefore must be produced by specific preferential laws which do not exist in an average chance universe. Blandino is both a Jesuit and the recipient of a doctorate in biological sciences from the University of Rome, so that this work in theoretical biology will claim more attention than if it were the work of a theologian. His concise summary of historical thought is useful.

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