

vast multitude of birds are green or olivaceous, at least dorsally. On the other hand, tree-frequenting animals, perhaps a majority of them, are better protected by a color-resemblance to bark than to leaves, and they are certainly so protected. The author combats here, as elsewhere, the exclusive or even general agency of natural selection. He confesses that "at every step, in fact, in the study of animal coloration we are met with closed doors, which can only be unlocked by keys furnished by an intimate chemical and physiological knowledge, such as we do not at present possess."

In Chapter IV., on warning coloration, we find the most valuable original feature of the work—the numerous experiments with the palatability of animals, especially insects generally supposed to illustrate warning coloration. These experiments, although furnishing somewhat contradictory evidence, are in the main a valuable confirmation of previous ideas. Dr. Eisig's theory of warning colors is advocated. He thinks that "the brilliant colors have caused the inedibility of the species, rather than that the inedibility has necessitated the production of bright colors as an advertisement," a somewhat startling if not revolutionary idea.

Chapter V. is on protective mimicry. This ever-delightful theme is well handled, although we can hardly repress an instinctive shudder at the iconoclasm which seeks to tear down the exquisite structure so beautifully wrought by Bates, Wallace, Belt, and others, and we hope to be forgiven for expressing a perhaps unscientific but deep-seated aversion to this attempted destructive criticism of the conclusions of those whose knowledge was gained in the woods and fields rather than in the laboratory or dissecting-room.

Chapter VI. treats of sexual selection; but lack of space forbids more than a mention of this chapter, except to enter a protest against the idea that birds do not possess an exalted æsthetic sense. Here again the field-naturalist will be apt to agree with Poulton, who, after presenting a large array of facts, says: "Such facts

point toward the existence of a widespread æsthetic sense in the higher animals."

The book as a whole is a valuable contribution to the literature of an intensely interesting subject, and will doubtless be read with pleasure and profit by thousands who do not claim to be scientists.

C. C. NUTTING.

State University, Iowa City, Iowa.

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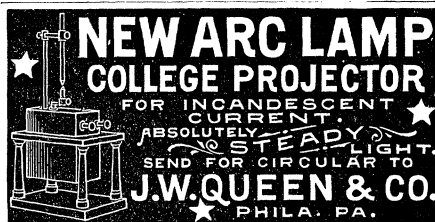
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