

ical equipment that has been concomitant with the transition from primitive to civilized conditions. It is equally certain that many of the current notions as to the likenesses and differences of 'Naturvölker' and 'Culturvölker' rest upon presuppositions rather than upon proper observation. Such researches as this of Mr. Rivers bear the possibility of clarifying our views as to these interesting relations.

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MADISON, WISCONSIN.

Monograph of the Coccidæ of the British Isles.

By ROBERT NEWSTEAD. London, Ray Society, 1901.* Vol. I. Pp. 220, Pls. A-E, and I-XXXIV.

This is the first comprehensive work on the British Coccidæ and is the result of over ten years' study by the author, who is the foremost authority on scale insects in England. The term 'British' is permitted to have a very elastic meaning, since all species found living in Britain are included—even those on hothouse plants and on fruits in the market. Thus, the *Diaspis* of cacti is duly given a place, though nobody would think of treating the cacti themselves as members of the British flora. Indeed, of the thirty-eight species discussed in the volume, only six are genuine natives of the country. This peculiar interpretation of the term 'British' is wholly justifiable when we consider the fact that many of the most injurious coccids are those which have been introduced, and indeed those most commonly met with are found in hothouses on imported plants. If Mr. Newstead had confined his researches to the indigenous species, his volume would have been of comparatively small practical value to the British coccidologist or horticulturist; and as the mode of occurrence of each is precisely stated there need be no confusion. Of the thirty-eight species, no less than thirty-one have also been taken in America, so it will readily be seen that the work is of much importance to us in this country. Every species is carefully described, and there are beautiful colored plates of most, as well as line drawings illustrating the minute structural characters. Biological facts

* It may be useful to state that the actual date of publication was the middle of December, 1901.

of the greatest interest are recorded. The genus *Aulacaspis*, of the present writer, is accepted, but defined by entirely new characters. It results from this that it includes a quite different series of species from those hitherto referred to it, except, of course, that the type species (*A. rosæ*) remains as before. I find, upon renewed study, that this new interpretation is apparently correct, and it marks a considerable advance in classification. *Aulacaspis* is now seen to be an Old World genus, while *Diaspis* is mainly American.

The common mussel-scale of the orange is referred to *Mytilaspis pinnæformis*, but I think incorrectly. The insect of this name occurs on orchids, while that of the orange (*M. beckii*) has never been seen by me on these plants, though it might be common on orange trees with plenty of orchids growing near, as is the case in Jamaica. We have to do, perhaps, with a case of 'physiological species,' and there is an opportunity for some one to try experiments in transferring the coccids from one plant to another.

Altogether, the work is a very admirable one. The only serious fault I find is that the author has not taken sufficient pains to examine the literature of his subject. Thus, he often quotes Cooley's paper on *Chionaspis*, and yet failed to learn from it that the so-called *C. salicis* of this country is not identical with the European species. The statements about the exotic distribution of the species are frequently incomplete, and sometimes inaccurate. In several cases, names are cited in the synonymy which were never printed in the places cited; thus Leonardi wrote *Aspidiotus* (*Selenaspis*) *articulatus*, but Newstead cites it *Selenaspis articulatus*, treating the subgenus as a genus in the synonymy, though he himself regards it as only a subgenus.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

EAST LAS VEGAS, N. M.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

SECTION OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.

THE regular meeting of the Section was held Monday evening, March 17, with Dr. A.