Faune de France 44: Coléoptères bruchides et anthribides. **Adolphe Hoffmann. Paris: Paul Lechevalier, 1945. Pp. 184. (Illustrated.) 250 fr.**

This is a comprehensive manual dealing with the species of Bruchidae, Urodonidae, Anthribidae, Brentidae, and Nemonychidae which occur in France. The systematic treatment of the species of each family is preceded by a discussion of larval and adult anatomy and of the relationships and biology of the family as a whole. With the object of facilitating identification, easily seen characters, many of which are illustrated by line drawings, are employed in the keys; in addition, the adults of most species are figured. Bourgin's illustrations of the Anthribidae are especially praiseworthy. A bibliography of 46 titles, a combined generic and specific index, and an alphabetical list of food plants complete the paper.

Taxonomic changes of interest are the removal of *Urodon* from the Anthribidae to form a separate family, Urodonidae, and the transfer of Anthribidae from Rhynchophora to Phytophaga. The family Nemonychidae is considered transitional between the Curculionidae and Scolytidae, which is at variance with Van Emden's conclusions, based chiefly on larval studies, that this group belongs in, or next to, the Anthribidae.

Dr. Hoffmann retains *Bruchus* on the grounds of common usage, though recognizing that the name is unavailable under the rules of nomenclature; and this course will probably meet the approval of most entomologists. Certain other usages, however, are questionable. For example, the two distinct species, *Acanthoscelides obtectus* Say and *A. obsoletus* Say, are synonymized; the adoption (p. 124) of "itae," instead of the standard "inae" as the termination for subfamily names seems an ill-advised innovation; Araeocerus (staphylinid) should be *Araecerus* and Brenthidae, Brentidae; "*Bruchus villosus* F." (footnote, p. 83) is said to belong to *Spermophagus*, but it is not mentioned under that genus, although *villosus* was originally described from Germany and (if the locality is correct) should occur in France.

These and a few other minor obscurities and errors scarcely lessen the practical usefulness of Dr. Hoffmann's paper.

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Science and scientists in the Netherlands Indies. **Pieter Honig and Frans Verdoorn. (Eds.) New York: Board for the Netherlands Indies; G. E. Stechert, 1945. Pp. xxiv + 491. (Illustrated.) $4.00.**

The late conflict has made the world conscious of the Netherlands Indies as never before. The appearance at this time of a solid book on their science and scientists is most timely. At the same time, one is inclined to suspect propaganda in favor of the Netherlands rule. The reader, however, will find here only a remarkably broad and wholly unbiased picture of the development and status of pure and applied natural science in the area. It is, as it were, a review of the past up to the Japanese invasion, aimed to gain a vision for the future and, perhaps, to draw "some who feel that they have training and knowledge which can be used there for the good of mankind."

The book consists of over 75 original and reprinted articles, mostly in English, with a few in French or German. Some are translations from the Dutch of valuable papers not previously available to most readers. The range of subjects covered in these closely printed pages is surprising. These include: livestock and the veterinary service, mineral resources, climate, volcanology and seismology, rubber, cinchona, medicine, archaeology, anthropology, fish and fisheries, agriculture, chemistry, forestry, astronomy, zoogeography, phytogeography, soils, extraction of naval stores, paper pulp, sedimentation, botany, paleobotany, geology, hydrodynamics, and exploration. The last subject is enlarged by delightful selections from the travel books of H. O. Forbes, David Fairchild, and F. Schneider, the last in German. Among the scientists dealt with biographically are Felix Meinesz, the exponent of international cooperation through geoscience; Junghuhn, linked with cinchona culture; and Rumphius, the blind seer of Amboina. Historical accounts, some of which are in French, deal with various developments and the institutions fostering them. The dependence of the growth of natural science on political, social, and racial development is recognized in the inclusion of a reprinted article by Jan Broek which analyzes the diversity and unity in southeastern Asia and their implications for future political developments. Some of these articles deal as much with other areas as with the Netherlands Indies, and some include clear general explanations of the subject essential for the layman's background. Thus, an article on the geodesist, Meinesz, explains the differences in earth densities before discussing its measurement in the suboceanic lithosphere and its relation to mountain building and volcanism. Many of the articles are well documented with bibliographies, and a list of bibliographies on the area appears near the end. These, along with a list of prewar scientific institutions, broadly interpreted, and an address list of their staffs, renders this an invaluable reference work.

Anthologies of poetry and prose are well recognized means to enlighten busy people with the best in these fields. Here is an anthology of regional science which is worthy of many successors. It is unfortunate that the dictates of economy compel the adoption of such a compact format and the use of such small type for many parts. A more systematic arrangement of articles would have enabled the busy specialist to find more easily the material in his field, but perhaps the mixing of subjects was deliberately intended to compel the reader to at least rub elbows with adjacent fields, if not to shake hands and browse. In fact, one must be a browser in this book, for there is no index, its place being taken by a very full table of contents.

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