reported to have plopped an especially fine beetle into his mouth for safekeeping. Baron C. R. Osten-Sacken seems to have used a career in the diplomatic service primarily as an excuse to collect flies in interesting places, and Colonel T. L. Casev used a career in the army for building up a notable collection of beetles. Casey, by the way, was one of the first persons to use a microscope for describing beetles, and when he died his microscope was gently placed beside him in his casket. T. D. A. Cockerell published 3904 papers, many of them scribbled on the backs of postcards and rushed off to editors. The crotchety Harrison Dyar feuded with most of his colleagues, including the rotund John B. Smith, after whom he named a species corpulentis. Smith is said to have got the better of this exchange, dedicating a species to Dyar and calling it dyaria (pronounced, of course, diarrhea).

To a middle-aged entomologist with an interest in the past, like myself, reading this book is like a visit with old friends, a few of whom I knew personally and most of whom I know through their publications. A few of the juicier stories are not here, of course (some of them are doubtless apocryphal), and many of the accounts are somewhat too laudatory, having been compiled mainly from obituaries. But on the whole the author has succeeded in fulfilling his goal of "fleshing out" these men, so that they appear as "something more than a list of publications." His sketches-203 of themmake for much better reading than similar ones in Essig's History of Entomology. The book is well researched and notably free of errors. The author has missed a few items that might have enriched his book: for example, Krombein and Baker's warm appreciation of H. S. Fuller. But on the whole this is a valuable book, one that entomologists, historians of science, and students of natural history will want to have on their shelves.

A few words of warning are in order, however. To be chronicled in these pages one must have died prior to 1966. A few notable "old-timers" who have died since that time—for example F. X. Williams and W. T. M. Forbes—are not to be found, nor are a number of persons who began their careers many years ago but who are still with us. At least one octogenarian has a student included in the book although he himself was not eligible. The choice of persons to include was, of course, a difficult one, and I would argue that E. T. Cres-

son, Jr., for example, was more worthy of a biographical sketch than S. W. Bilsing. But I am glad that I did not have to make the decisions on these matters.

"American," by the way, is construed to mean America north of Mexico, so you will not find Costa Lima or other important Latin Americans here. Arrangement is by area of interest. For example, there is a chapter on "notable coleopterists," another on "entomologists of divers interests." I found A. G. Böving in the latter chapter, though I would have put him in the former, and many other assignments seem rather arbitrary. But there is a good index, so this matter hardly seems worth a lengthy discussion.

George Sarton remarked in 1927: "When shall we be given a good history of entomology?" The question is still a valid one. Nevertheless, we may be grateful to Arnold Mallis for doing a good job with a project of more modest dimensions. There are many fascinating specimens in his collection of insectlovers. By contrast, contemporary entomologists seem a drab and harried lot, nursing inferiority complexes from having their manuscripts attacked by reviewers, their favorite insecticides condemned by conservationists, their cabinets moved about to make room for computers. C'est la vie.

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