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It is a relief to find such a straightforward and objective work as Lougee's *The Web of the Spider*. Her brief but lucid descriptions of spider anatomy, silk production and web construction will induce appreciation and observation of these much-maligned animals.

The slender book is divided into twelve major sections, plus a conclusion and suggestions for further study. Each section is enhanced by photographs and other illustrations; these would have been more meaningful if line drawings had been labeled and living specimens had been used. Some subject areas will be understood only if the reader has previous specialized knowledge. Yet every reader will gain profit from this enjoyable book.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA ENTOMOLOGISTS. Edited by John H. Masters. Vol. 1, No. 1, [October?] 1966; No. 2, not received; No. 3, Feb. 1967; No. 4, Aug. 1967. Free to members of the A.M.E., who pay \$2.75 a year for active and \$1.75 for corresponding memberships, which are open to all by contacting John T. Sorensen, 5309 37th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55417.

As does Michigan, Minnesota includes a series of life zones from Upper Austral in the south, through the 'transition' to Canadian in the northeast, including occasional Hudsonian bog areas. More western species sometimes colonize in Minnesota, and the diversity of habitats results in a good variety of species in an interesting collecting area.

Our brothers in Minnesota have long taken advantage of this good fortune, but only recently has a newsletter appeared to document their activities. It is a folded 24-page silk-screen mimeograph production with heavy stock covers. The inexpensive format has the usual drawback of muddy type, but a definite improvement can be seen through the course of publication, due to the utilization of better materials. The *Newsletter* accepts contributions "on any aspect of entomology in any part of the world," but "priority in publication will be given to papers of the North Central Region and to papers by members of the Association."

The first issues have been dominated by the lepidopterists. Papers generally fall into two categories; area lists and accounts of collecting trips. Many of these are quite informative and useful, especially the month-by-month account of "Butterfly Collecting in Arizona" by John H. Masters in No. 3. Annotated lists of the Lepidoptera and Coleoptera of Minnesota are appearing serially, and there have been several papers on individual species of Coleoptera. Book reviews appear in No. 4, pp. 97 [*recte* 95]-96.

The usual errors common to newsletters appear. Frequently scientific names are not underlined in the absence of italics, while others are. Linnaeus' name is consistently given as 'Linneaus' throughout a paper in No. 3, pp. 61-65; 'sulfer' consistently appears for 'sulphur' or 'sulfur'

in No. 3, pp. 57-60. Other misspelled words and an occasional incomplete sentence may be found. No. 4 is labeled as Vol. 1, no. 3 above the table of contents. Despite these 'birthing pains,' the A.M.E. *Newsletter* has had a favorable start with some good material, and we wish it luck in the future.

R.S.W.

INSECTS. Ross E. Hutchins. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1966. xii, 324 pp. \$6.95.

Contemporary entomological writing usually falls into one of two categories: general "picture-books" designed for youngsters, and learned monographs and specialized publications that are generally unavailable and incomprehensible to the layman. *Insects* fills this gap, and interprets modern findings for the advanced amateur, the adult lay public, and even offers insights into aspects of entomology that a professional entomologist, devoted as he is to a specialized field, will find to be new and interesting.

In simple, everyday language Dr. Hutchins spins his accounts of insects and their ways, with emphasis on behavior, form, and function in such chapters as The Aerialists, Insect Migration, The Water Realm, The Hunters, The Farmers, The Builders, The Paper and Tent Makers, The Nectar Gatherers, The Pollinators, Chemical Warfare, and others.

In these chapters we are told how to calculate the temperature, based on the rate of chirping of various crickets and katydids; we learn that the paper nests of *Polistes* wasps have been used as wadding in muzzle-loading firearms; and we delight in his accounts of air-conditioned termite mounds, of ants that dwell in the thorns of acacia trees, of beetles, roaches, and crickets that live in ant nests, the secret of Mexican jumping beans, of ants that use their heads to plug the entrances to their homes in twigs. Many more vignettes of the lives of a wide variety of insects are included.

The book is more meaningful to us because it deals largely with the North American fauna, and each topic is illustrated with carefully chosen examples. Dr. Hutchins almost always identifies the insect under discussion with a common name, scientific name, and, a very welcome feature indeed, the family and order name. The author does not "write down" to his audience, but explains each facet lucidly and introduces such terms as pheromone, tropism, hemolymph, chitin, stridulation, diapause, polyembryony, bromatia, trophallaxis, and circadian rhythm, in a way that makes the account more challenging and stimulating.

Numerous photographs by the author illustrate the text. All are of excellent quality, but the use of dead specimens in unnatural poses (such as the painted lady butterfly on page 82) is regrettable. Many of the photos were taken indoors, with plain backgrounds, when a more natural outdoor photo would have been more appealing. The photographs