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**The Insects. Peter Farb and the editors of Life. New York: Time Inc., 1962. 192 pp. \$4.00.**

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THE INSECTS. Peter Farb and the editors of *Life*. New York: Time Inc., 1962. 192 pp. \$4.00.

It is a pleasant surprise to find a book that can effectively communicate much information about insects to the lay public, amateur entomologist, and professional entomologist alike. In straight-forward language the author gives genuine insight into the morphology, physiology, behavior, evolution, and adaptation of insects. These areas are not treated as unrelated topics but are skillfully blended into a meaningful whole. The text is supported liberally with pertinent facts, clear drawings, and many photographs of remarkable quality. The lack of obvious mistakes indicates that editing has been carried out carefully.

The book is divided into eight chapters: The Realm of the Insect; Living in Armor; The Marvel of Metamorphosis; Insect Architecture; The Hunters and the Hunted; Flowers, Pollen and Bees; The Water Dwellers; and The Ant: Wisdom or Instinct? The quality of the last chapter helps us overlook its "come-on" title.

An unusual feature for a book of this type is the inclusion of a key to insect orders along with a brief discussion of insect identification. Noteworthy, too, is the inclusion of a comprehensive bibliography that lists many important entomological works.

After reading the book one can only agree with Dr. Alexander B. Klots who states in the introduction, ". . . I know that the author and editors of this book must have had many difficult moments deciding how far it was possible to generalize without error or oversimplification on the one hand, or prolixity on the other. I think they have been remarkably successful and have produced a book, with a most interesting text and a wealth of illustrations, that effectively presents the major features of insect natural history."

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#### BRIEF NOTICES

THE DANCE LANGUAGE AND ORIENTATION OF BEES. Karl von Frisch. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1967. xiv, 566 pp. \$15.00.

One of the world's leading authorities on bees, Karl von Frisch of the University of Munich has written what will surely be the standard work on its subject for some time to come. This intensive discussion of bee communication and orientation gives details of von Frisch's experiments, and the author draws conclusions which should be of interest to professional biologists and advanced amateurs alike. The book is lavishly produced in an attractive format, and has over five hundred figures and tables.