

ing, you would not only find every one of them on the maps, but also in some volume of the latest edition of "Thornton's Gazetteer," and perhaps in the volume in which you least expect to find it. To make the book useful for the general public, therefore, a careful index of all the possible spellings, and reference to the correct one, ought to have been annexed to it. Another English index arranged according to subject matter, such as for instance the one to "Rich's Dictionary of Roman and Greek Antiquities," is still a great desideratum, even after the new distribution in four chapters by Mr. Beames. To give only two or three instances out of many: How is the ordinary reader to know that Bareilly (II., 143) is the same as Bareli (141), and that the latter is the correct form? or that the Jadubans (I., 3) are the same as the Yadbans's (350), and that Kayat, Kayath, Kayeth, Kaisth and Kaith, as they are spelt in different parts of the book, are the same, namely, Káyastha, and that the name is not composed, as stated, on I., 305, from *kai* and *stíttei*? And how, without an alphabetical table of contents, are you to know that contributions to Persian and Slang lexicography are hidden away in pages 178 of the second, and 160 of the first volume?

All this does not, however, detract from the value of the work, which we consider, with the author, as "a basis and starting point" very well worth imitating for all the civilians who go out to India. If every secretary of a Sudder Board of Revenue in India were presented with a copy of this work, and if an injunction were made that either he himself or one of his assistants who is well qualified for the task should from time to time send in reports of what he sees and hears after the pattern of the present book, we might, without outlay to the Government, soon see the book completed to the letter Z, and the same thing done for other presidencies too. But the case occurring, we must beg one thing, that the right man be put in the right place, and that we are to have no more of that gentleman's reports who tries to pass off the names of five great districts and of five great languages for so many "great families." (I. 342). We fancy we see him in our mind's eye sitting down to a task utterly ungenial to him, and after a strenuous effort to huddle it through, only heaping blunder upon blunder. Such discoveries shake our faith in the reliability of his other statements in cases where we have no means to test them by facts established elsewhere, and resting on sufficient authority by themselves.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF

*A Catalogue of British Neuroptera.* Compiled by Robert McLachlan, F.L.S. The Ephemeroidea by the Rev. A. E. Eaton, B.A. Published by the Entomological Society of London. 8vo. (London: Longmans. 1870.)

ENTOMOLOGISTS will give a cordial welcome to this first instalment of the catalogue of British insects, the preparation and publication of which has been taken up with such commendable zeal by our Entomological Society. The subjects coming under the domain of entomology are so infinitely numerous, and the literature of the science has increased so enormously of late years, that for any one man to attempt to grapple with it specifically would be almost an act of insanity; and the authorities of the Entomological Society have therefore very wisely entrusted the preparation of different parts of their projected catalogue to those British entomologists who

have most successfully studied particular groups. Mr. McLachlan as a zealous student of the Neuroptera is so well known both in this country and on the Continent, that no one else could well have been selected for this part of the task, and he has associated with himself, in the preparation of the list of Ephemeroidea (the well-known May-flies of the angler) a gentleman who, if his published writings are less numerous than those of his colleague, has certainly shown in them that he possesses in a high degree the qualities necessary for the investigation of a rather difficult group of insects.

The order Neuroptera, as understood in this catalogue, possesses the same signification that was originally given to it by Linnæus—that is to say, it embraces, besides the true Neuroptera with a complete metamorphosis, those forms, such as the dragon-flies, May-flies, and some others, which, from their imperfect transformation and certain structural characters, have of late years frequently been placed with the Orthoptera, under the name of "Pseudo-Neuroptera." Under this subordinal or tribal name they figure in this catalogue, and in the present state of our knowledge of the classification of these forms of insects, this is perhaps as good a place for them as any. We have still much to learn as to the affinities of these creatures before any satisfactory arrangement of the families and higher groups can be made, and long and persevering labours, probably in the genealogical direction indicated by Darwinian views, will be necessary before we can clearly understand their true relations, which, however, are the more interesting, as it is undoubtedly in this neighbourhood that we have to seek for the primitive type or types of the whole world of insects. Towards such a happy consummation as the final settlement of so knotty a question as the true classification of the insects comprised under the orders Orthoptera and Neuroptera, such conscientious work as has been put into this catalogue by its authors must greatly contribute.

There is one other point on which we may congratulate the Entomological Society, namely, their adoption of an order of Entomological pariahs, if we may so speak, for the *début* of their catalogue. In Entomology, perhaps more than in any other department of Natural History, fashion rules the day, and the great majority of its votaries devote their whole attention either to Lepidoptera or to Beetles. The fact that one of the most neglected groups of insects has been taken for the commencement of this catalogue of British insects, is, we hope, a sign that the order of publication will continue to be in the inverse ratio of the popularity of the subjects, as we feel convinced that there are many who with any tolerable guidance would be only too glad to acquire some knowledge of the forms of insect-life which lie outside the limits of their present studies.

*Ost Afrika: Erinnerungen und Miscellen aus dem abyssinischen Feldzüge.* Von Dr. J. Bechtinger. (Wien. 1870.)

DR. BECHTINGER furnishes an account in a light sketchy style of his experience in the Abyssinian campaign as an acting assistant surgeon. The contents of this work are of a very miscellaneous nature, and are not particularly well arranged, comprising scraps of information respecting the diseases of the troops, the treatment adopted for the *Filaria medinensis*, the Yemen ulcer, the character and habits of the Abyssinians, and the incidents of the journey. The descriptions of the scenery are few and short, and there are scarcely any observations of scientific value. We scarcely know whether the book is intended for the general or the professional reader. For the former it contains too much medicine and surgery; for the latter it is almost worthless, and we think the author need not have been so particular in reserving the right of translation and repro-