

coming from the Lake of Como, and the exquisite drive to Soglio, are passed over. The "Palace Hotel" at Maloja has its prospectus printed almost in full, but many of the excursions from it are catalogued under Sils. The carriage roads up the Fex Thal and Roseg Thal, the restaurants at Curtins, on the Surlei Furka, Piz Languard, and elsewhere, are left out, though in other districts restaurants are noted. The Bernina Hospice and Bernina Houses have been confused. The inn at the foot of the Morteratsch Glacier and that on the Diavolezza Pass, the latter the best starting point for many peaks and passes, are ignored. The way to Boval is said to be "rough and over snow"; there is an excellent path; so there is, since 1902, up Piz Julier, said to be "difficult." The Alp Misaun is suggested as a starting point for Piz Morteratsch. No travellers prefer its hay to the good accommodation offered by the Roseg Inn or the much higher Tschierva hut.

It is an easy task to pick holes in a guide-book covering such an extensive field as Switzerland. We have preferred to collect our bundle of blunders almost entirely from a single district. We could easily have made it bigger without going farther, and by extending our survey we might fill columns. But enough has been done to warn travellers who may be tempted by the numerous and, as a rule, excellent maps to purchase this volume that they must not rely on its information as regards either ordinary excursions or glacier expeditions. Nor in many cases can we at all agree with the editors' estimates of scenery. We should hesitate to call the Bel Alp "a beautiful and secluded village," or to characterise "the scenery round the Borromean Islands" as "strikingly grand." The index stands in need of careful revision.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the Auspices of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Edited by W. T. Blanford. Hymenoptera. Vol. ii. Ants and Cuckoo-Wasps. By Lieut.-Colonel C. T. Bingham. Pp. xix + 506. (London: 1903.)

THE first volume of this work appeared in 1897, and included the wasps and bees, and now the second volume has been issued, containing the still more interesting family of the Formicidæ, and also the small, but very beautiful, family of the Chrysididæ, or ruby-tail wasps; or, as Colonel Bingham calls them, the cuckoo-wasps. This completes the important section of Aculeata, or stinging Hymenoptera, and the monographing of the remaining groups, which are still very imperfectly known, is very properly deferred for the present. We are, however, pleased to see that Colonel Bingham has undertaken to prepare a work on the butterflies of British India for the same series.

Colonel Bingham divides the Formicidæ into five subfamilies, Dorylinæ, Ponerinæ, Myrmecinae, Dolichoderinæ, and Camponotinae (498 species); and Chrysididæ with four subfamilies, Cleptinae, Ellampinæ, Chrysidinae, and Parnopinae (79 species). When we remember that instead of 498 species of Formicidæ there are only about forty species in Britain, and only about a hundred in all Europe, the difference between a temperate and a tropical fauna becomes sufficiently obvious.

A very clear account of the external characters of ants is given in the introduction, elucidated by numerous figures of structure. The bulk of the work is almost exclusively descriptive, but includes useful keys to genera and species, synonymy, and occasional notes on habits. Exigencies of space necessitate the latter being of the utmost brevity, which, though obviously unavoidable, is none the less to be regretted, for the habits of many Indian ants are extremely interesting.

The 577 species described by Colonel Bingham in the volume before us are illustrated by 161 text illustrations, frequently including structural details as well. Occasionally more than one species of a genus is figured. A coloured plate is added, with sixteen coloured figures of Chrysididæ. Among the most interesting of the uncoloured figures are those representing the curious spiny ants of the genus *Polyrhachis*.

Comparatively few new species are described, for much has been written on Indian Formicidæ in recent years. But, except as regards the obsolete catalogue of F. Smith, almost all that has been published is scattered through a variety of scientific periodicals not always easy of access, and we congratulate Colonel Bingham on the completion of a comprehensive work which must greatly facilitate the study of his subject to all future workers.

Dendrologische Winterstudien. Von Camilla Karl Schneider. Pp. vi + 290. (Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1903.) Price 7.50 marks.

THE study of our tropophytic trees and shrubs in their winter condition has been somewhat neglected from the systematist's point of view. While such works as those of Sargent and Willkomm have hitherto supplied the wants of the forester, still the number of species they deal with is limited, and a more extended list is required. To meet this want the author of the above work has set himself no small task, and, in our opinion, has achieved a degree of success which only great patience and perseverance could attain. The book deals with 235 genera, including 434 species of indigenous and introduced deciduous trees and shrubs in Europe. A notable feature of the work is the large number of illustrations, 224 in all, which are reproduced from photographs and hand drawings of actual specimens.

The subject-matter is divided into three sections—a general, a special, and a systematic. The first section deals with general organography, and gives a wide and comprehensive survey of the subject. The reader is thereby well prepared for what is to follow in the next section, which is the bulkiest and most important one in the book. It is devoted to the special consideration of the various species in their winter condition. The descriptions are short and concise, many abbreviations being used, which are, however, fully explained at the beginning of the section. The accompanying figures, which illustrate the salient features of the species described, are very instructive and well drawn. The author attaches more importance to good figures than to descriptions, and has consequently produced a large number of drawings which alone would, in most cases, amply suffice for purposes of identification and comparison. The classification of the leafless twigs is somewhat intricate, but this is unavoidable when a large number of species has to be tabulated. Following this comes a section giving a systematic arrangement of the various species dealt with. The system adopted is that of A. Engler.

In the bibliography at the end, the more important dendrological works are cited, and a short statement of their contents given.