

Japan and other countries. Mr. Theobald has studied the aphides of Britain for some thirty years, and has published numerous papers on them from time to time. Every one interested in insects, particularly economic entomologists, will welcome, therefore, the publication of this up-to-date monograph, based on the author's extensive studies.

The classification adopted follows closely that of Baker (1920), which is certainly the most rational and logical one in existence. It is proposed to deal only with the family Aphididæ, and this first volume is concerned with the sub-tribes Macrosiphina and Pentalonina. Fourteen genera and 133 species are recognised, and in addition four other species are noted in the appendix. Descriptions of the parthenogenetic females of the species together with keys are given, the salient external features being figured. In addition, notes on synonymy, food plants, localities and biology are added. The sexuales are unknown in many species of aphides, and it is surprising that in only nineteen of the above species are both sexual forms described in this volume. In five other species the male only is described, and in five further cases the sexual female only is described. It is not clear whether we are to conclude that the sexuales are unknown in all the other species, or whether they are omitted in some cases because they do not require special notice. For example, on p. 216 the apterous oviparous female of *Rs. ligustri* is stated to be abundant, but it is not described. Similarly, on p. 14 the sexual female of *C. rosarum* is referred to, but no description of it is given under that species.

A useful introductory chapter gives an account of the general morphological and biological features of the Aphididæ. The statement on p. 6: "The rostrum was formerly looked upon as the labium, but it is really an extension of the body," requires further explanation; the available embryological evidence indicates that the rostrum in Rhynchota is labial in origin. The old nomenclature for the wing veins is used. One feels it might have been better to have adopted the nomenclature of the Comstock and Needham system, as Patch has worked out the homologies in aphides.

Two misprints not included in the errata have been noted: the genus *Aphidiella* should read *Aphidella*; the specific name *M. scropulariæ* should read *scrophulariæ*.

Entomologists owe a great debt of gratitude to the author for the laborious task he has so faithfully carried through, and will look forward to the early publication of further volumes. J. D.

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Our Bookshelf.

A Nineteenth-Century Teacher: John Henry Bridges, M.B., F.R.C.P., sometime Fellow of Oriol College, Oxford, and late Medical Inspector to the Local Government Board. By his Niece, Susan Liveing. Pp. xv + 262. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 7s. 6d. net.

DR. J. H. BRIDGES was the most philosophic and scientific mind among the leaders of the positivist movement at the end of the last century, and it is good to know that he will at last be recalled to mind, while many who knew him in person are still alive. For he was unique in many ways, a most attractive and lovable character, above all a thoroughly typical Englishman who had succeeded in putting himself in the right European and international position without forfeiting a jot of his national qualities and attachment. He became, by his training at Oxford and as a doctor and by his attachment to Comte, the most all-round man of his time, specially interesting to readers of NATURE and contemporary men of science generally.

After taking the ordinary course of 'Literae Humaniores' at Wadham, Dr. Bridges qualified himself thoroughly as a physician, and throughout his life kept the balance true between scientific and literary and historical studies. Had he not been preoccupied with the organisation of the Poor Law infirmaries of London, there can be no doubt but that he would have contributed largely to historical writing of the type now so much needed, namely, synthetic history, in which the due place of scientific thinking in building up the social structure is duly recognised and maintained. As it was, he wrote a number of valuable short studies, of which Mrs. Liveing gives a useful list. Apart from its success as a personal portrait, her book is well worth getting for its inimitable picture of the life in the evangelical parsonage where Bridges spent his youth, and to which he always turned back with affectionate memories in spite of his later developments. One must read the literal account of all this in Mrs. Liveing's authentic narrative before one can believe it, and it would be a pity to spoil the enjoyment of this or of the delightful figure of his mother by quoting any fragments. The whole is the best recent biography which has appeared, sympathetic, well-balanced, sufficiently detailed, and not too long. It gains much in value by the extremely interesting study of positivism and science by Prof. Patrick Geddes.

F. S. M.

Tafeln zur Bestimmung des Wasserdampfgehaltes der Luft mittelst eines Haarhygrometers und Thermometers gerechnet und erläutert. Von Dr. J. N. Dörr. *Anleitung zur Behandlung eines Haarhygrometers und zur Verwertung für die lokale Wettervorhersage.* Von Dr. A. Schlein. (Wien: Selbstverlag von Dr. A. Schlein, 1925.) n.p.

THESE tables have been prepared for use in place of a similar set of tables by Perntner, which were printed as an appendix to Jelinek's "Psychrometer-