

America. Dr. Sharp is therefore inclined to agree with the opinion expressed by Bates that the fauna of the region under investigation is essentially Neotropical. The Staphylinidæ first brought from the tropics included an undue proportion of comparatively large, bizarre, or brilliantly coloured forms, but it is clear that this was chiefly due to imperfect collecting. Indeed, one of the striking facts in connection with the material brought together by the Editors is the very large number of minute and obscure insects, so that it can scarcely be said that the Central American Staphylinidæ are, on the average, larger or more brilliant than those of Europe.

Of the nineteen plates, fourteen are devoted to Staphylinidæ, 443 species being figured altogether.

Vol. II. part 1. By D. Sharp, A. Matthews, and G. Lewis. *Pselaphidæ*-*Byrrhidæ*. The twenty-two families enumerated in this volume are collectively termed Clavicornia by various authors, and in recent catalogues of Coleoptera the Erotylidæ, Endomychidæ, and Coccinellidæ (these three families being here placed at the end of the Coleopterous series in vol. VII.) are treated as belonging to the same division. The Silphidæ, Corylophidæ, Trichopterygidæ, Sphæriidæ, and Scaphidiidæ were worked out by Mr. Matthews, the Histeridæ by Mr. G. Lewis, and the remaining sixteen families by Dr. Sharp, the last named author also contributing a list of the Rhipidandri—a small group of somewhat uncertain position, but really belonging to the Tenebrionid-series near Boletophagini. The total number of species is 1629, of which 996 are described as new.

The nineteen plates include, it is believed, some of the finest lithographic illustrations of beetles than have as yet been published, those devoted to the Colydiidæ (plates xiv. and xv.) being particularly excellent.

Vol. II. part 2. By H. W. Bates. *Pectinicornia* and *Lamellicornia*. The total number of species for these two important families is 1100—72 *Pectinicornia* and 1028 *Lamellicornia*. The author, in his 'Introduction' (published in 1890), remarks that the *Pectinicorn*-fauna is exceedingly poor in the chief family of the tribe, viz., the Lucanidæ; but, on the other hand, it is unusually rich in the more aberrant family, the Passalidæ. A comparison with such allied faunas from other parts of the world which have been sufficiently worked out to give approximately accurate results, seems to show that the poverty in Lucanidæ arises from Central America lying too far south to have been reached by many species of Old-World genera, and too far north for the genera characteristic of South Brazil, Chile, and the Andes. The conditions seem, however, to be very favourable to the Passalidæ, which all pass their earlier stages in rotting tree-trunks, reaching their highest development and exhibiting more diversity of form here than in any other region. All the families of *Lamellicornia* are well represented in Central America; they include 1028 species belonging to 127 genera, but a comparison of the *Lamellicorn*-fauna with that of other