

the birds, many genera of which are represented by distinct species on each side of a line which he is inclined to place north of the Nicaraguan lakes and their outfall, the Rio San Juan?"

The thirteen coloured plates include figures of 324 species.

Mr. Bates subsequently wrote two papers on the Mexican material received from our collectors after the present Volume was closed:—

(1) 'Additions to the Cicindelidæ Fauna of Mexico' (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1890, pp. 493–510, pl. 16).

(2) 'Additions to the Carabideous Fauna of Mexico' (*op. cit.* 1891, pp. 223–277, pls. 13, 14).

16. COLEOPTERA. Vol. I. part 2: by D. Sharp: Haliplidæ, Dytiscidæ, Gyrinidæ, Hydrophilidæ, Heteroceridæ, Parnidæ, Georissidæ, Cyathoceridæ, and Staphylinidæ.

For these nine families of Coleoptera 1790 species are enumerated, 1405 of which belong to Staphylinidæ, 168 to Dytiscidæ, and 141 to Hydrophilidæ, the others being of limited extent. The author, in his 'Introduction' (published in 1887), states that the water beetles (Dytiscidæ) are apparently subject to different laws of distribution from other Coleoptera, illustrating in this respect what he believes to be the case with aquatic organisms generally, viz. diminished endemism, and therefore but little adapted for consideration in questions of zoo-geography. The study of the exotic Staphylinidæ appears to be practically in its infancy, and but little can be done in the way of comparison with the fauna of other tropical regions. In the case of genera with a large number of species and a wide distribution, the Central American Staphylinids are stated to be much more nearly allied to those of South than to those of North 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 coloured plates, fourteen are devoted to Staphylinidæ, 443 species being figured altogether.

17. COLEOPTERA. Vol. II. part 1: by Dr. 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,