therefore have been there as larvæ from the beginning. The claim that the borax killed eggs is then untenable.

There is no information as to the number of maggots in the manure to start with, the temperature of the manure (a very important point), or the comparative temperatures of each lot. Practically, the book depends on one experiment, carried out under doubtful conditions and contrary to much larger experiments made here. We regret it, as it will mislead many, and lead to much useless employment of borax.

(2) The second volume is an attempt to get people to realise that the house fly is a real danger and to persuade them to cope with it. "Knowledge is power only when it is turned to practical use" is the opening to chapter vii., and we could quote other sentences full of meaning that occur in it.

The remedies advocated in it are usually sound and practical. Like others, the author fails to realise that the fly maggots live in material that is actually fermenting and in manure heaps that are hot, and that in consequence a purely superficial treatment will often kill them. It is also not true to say that "an insecticide to kill maggots must be about four or five times as strong as that used against other kinds of insects": it must be different, that is all.

The various chemical treatments recommended (salt, sodium arsenate, Paris green, sulphate of iron, etc.) are not practical for manure, nor are they cheap, and it would be interesting to know exactly what evidence there is of their effectiveness. Apart from this, the reader will find the book sound and helpful. It is written for South Africa, and all the methods advocated would not suit this country.

A chapter is devoted to the stable fly, which is possibly a disseminator of infantile paralysis. This chapter has special value now in England, as the stable fly is sometimes the only fly common in seaside resorts where children swarm, and most people, quite naturally, do not differentiate it from the house fly. When these matters are more fully investigated the importance of the stable fly will be settled. Meanwhile it is worth remembering that when people think that the house flies are biting them, in autumn, it is really the stable fly.

Of the two volumes we prefer the second, and we know of no other volume that is quite so simple, sensible, and practical. To those who wish to realise what the fly is, or does, without unnecessary scientific details, we commend this little book.

H. M. L.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

A Descriptive Monograph of Japanese Asteroidea, Part I. (Journal of the College of Science, Imperial University of Tokyo. Vol. xxix., Art. i. December 17th.) Pp. 808+xix plates. (Tokyo: The University, 1914.)

IN this large volume of about 800 pages only the Phanerozonia of Japan are included. Fifty-nine species are described, of which eighteen are new. The descriptions, in the case of thirty-nine species, are based on an examination of a number of collections preserved in various Japanese Institutions; but in the case of twenty species, which are not represented in any of the indigenous collections, either the extant description of the original author is quoted, or the species is very honestly expounded in a series of extracts from the several authors, who at different times have discussed and criticised it, in such a way that its definement suffers no perdition. The autoptical descriptions are excellent: they are clear and discriminative, and though rather tending to be meticulous, are far from being tedious or discursive. But in dealing with the history and literature of the subject the author is inclined not only to a redundance of quotation which is largely iterative, but also to burdening the quotations with a superfluity of their unimportant detail. Seeing that there is provided an exhaustive bibliography, filling over 100 pages, and concerned exclusively with papers cited in the text, this multiplication of undigested extracts descriptive of one and the same species is wearisome and unnecessary, though, of course, there are some who would not regard this feature as in any way a defect. On the whole, however, it must be allowed that this monograph is a wonderful piece of solid, honest work, the very card and calendar of taxonomy, and fit to stand among zoological works of reference of the very highest class. The typography is excellent, and there are nineteen double plates of admirable illustrations in photogravure.

In the copy under review pp. 81 to 86, which would appear to relate to *Ctenodiscus crispatus*, are wanting, and in their place pp. 97 to 112 are duplicated.

The Health of the Child: A Manual for Mothers and Nurses. By Dr. O. Hildesheim. Pp. xii +111. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1915.) Price 1*s.* net.

THE introduction to this work is written by Dr. G. F. Stell, the well-known Professor of Diseases of Children at King's College Hospital, and when he praises it, it is a work of supererogation of a mere reviewer to say ditto. The feeding, clothing, washing, nursing, and early education of the infant are all treated with admirable clearness and sound common-sense. The underlying doctrine that cleanliness and godliness are akin, if not identical, is forcibly pressed home. The book may not only be placed safely in the hands of every mother and nurse, but it seems almost unsafe to allow any mother and nurse to be without this excellent shillingsworth. W. D. H.