

Urospatha martii olivacea (p. 108), Moyobamba, Peru; *Nephæcetes niger guadeloupensis* (p. 143); Guadeloupe Island; *Lepidopyga goudoti zulixæ* (p. 182), Rio Aurare, W. Venezuela; *Colibri iolatus brevipennis* (p. 210), Caracas, Venezuela.

While we have not had an opportunity to test out the accuracy of the references they appear to have been carefully compiled and we have little doubt but that Mr. Cory's 'Catalogue' will prove to be an indispensable reference work to all who study neotropical bird-life. It is well printed, the type well selected and the arrangement clear and easily understood. Let us hope that nothing may hinder the appearance of the succeeding parts upon which Mr. Cory is now engaged.—W. S.

McAtee's 'Sketch of the Natural History of the District of Columbia.'¹—There is no more important point in connection with the study of local natural history than for the student to have a clear idea of the relation of the fauna and flora to the environment and to appreciate just where his immediate locality stands in the classification of the larger zoögeographic or phytogeographic areas as well as to know where to find the local literature. We often find admirable discussions of the faunal relations of the western states or of remote foreign countries, but concise accounts of the general features controlling the distribution of plants and animals in the neighborhood of the larger centers of population in the eastern states, are much harder to obtain. Such a work, therefore, as Mr. McAtee has conceived and carried to completion deserves the highest commendation, and should stimulate the preparation of similar sketches for other centers of natural history study.

The first half of the "sketch" consists of an historical account of natural history study in the vicinity of Washington with local bibliographies for the botany, insects, other invertebrates, fishes, reptiles and batrachians, birds, mammals and early history of man. The second part discusses the distribution of life in the region under the following heads: 'The Piedmont Plateau and Coastal Plain as Faunal and Floral Provinces'; 'Magnolia Bogs near Washington, D. C., and their Relations to the Pine Barrens'; 'Other Types of Collecting Grounds in the District of Columbia Region'; and 'The Upper Potomac Region.' Following this is the index to the accompanying map with a bibliography of maps, historical works, etc., from which the locality names were compiled. The bird portion consists of an interesting historical sketch and a list of fifteen papers.

This publication we notice is the first of a new series — 'Bulletins' — of the Biological Society which, if the present issue is a sample of what is to come, will be well worth while.—W. S.

¹ A Sketch of the Natural History of the District of Columbia together with an Indexed Edition of the U. S. Geological Survey's 1917 Map of Washington and Vicinity. By W. L. McAtee. Bull. Biological Society, Wash., No. 1. May, 1918. pp. 1-142 with map. (in folder). Price \$2.00, postpaid \$2.15.