

printing. But, because the handbook is a loose-leaf book such errors or ambiguities can be easily corrected, and the few debit charges are insignificant in comparison with the excellent portrayal of a subject that is overwhelming even in its simplest form.

The need for a handbook of this type has been present for many years. The "Locust Handbook" has met this need. All users of the handbook will be eagerly awaiting the addition of future "Sections".

P. W. RIEGERT

The Butterflies and Common Moths of New Zealand, by D. E. Gaskin. Whitcombe and Tombs Limited, Christchurch, New Zealand, 1966. 219 pp., 16 figs., 4 color plates, 24 black and white half-tone plates. Price \$4.75 U.S.A., \$8.75 N.Z., or 47s. 6d.

This book is designed to enable a beginner to make a collection of the butterflies and moths of New Zealand, and to assist him and the professional entomologist in the identification of the 18 species of butterflies and 165 species of the commoner moths occurring there. The book is divided into an introduction and three sections. The introduction briefly discusses the fauna, and presents a historical account of the collecting of Lepidoptera, and the economic importance of several introduced and native species.

The first section consists of 32 pages. It deals with the external structure, life history, and classification of Lepidoptera; the equipment required for collecting, mounting, display, and storage; and methods of collecting and rearing.

The second section is a 30-page key to the 183 species dealt with in the book. The key is not difficult to use because of the simple but diagnostic characters that are used.

The 115-page third section contains the descriptions, distributions, and life histories of the 183 species dealt with. The scientific and common name and plate reference is given for each species. The arrangement starts with the nymphalid butterflies and ends with the hepialid moths. This section also contains an appendix consisting of a systematic list of the species contained in the book. Here again, scientific and common names are given. This is followed by a long list of references and the index.

This publication will undoubtedly be of great value to the amateur and professional entomologists of New Zealand and other countries. It is unfortunate that the illustrations of the moths are often poorly reproduced.

T. N. FREEMAN

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Page 1322, fifth line from bottom of page, *for 1966 read 1961.*