

for at least 1,200 hours. This indicates that *F. fusca* is a hardy species. This is further shown by the fact that under field conditions it exhibits a wide range of tolerance. The long survival time of *L. flavus* indicates that it too has a wide range of tolerance although its timidity in the field would not suggest it was very robust.

Although the Irish ant fauna cannot be considered as a purely underground one, it is apparent that the ecological distribution of the different species depends to a great extent on the relative humidity of the nest, which in its turn depends on the soil structure. It is to be hoped that others may be interested in undertaking further work on the correlation of physiological responses and field distribution.

References

- O'ROURKE, Fergus J. (1950). "The Distribution and General Ecology of the Irish Formicidae". Proc. R. Ir. Acad. 52 B, (9), 383-410.
- TALBOT, Mary (1934). "The Distribution of Ant Species in the Chicago Area, with Reference to Ecological Factors and Physiological Tolerations". Ecology 15, 416-438.
- WEBER, N. A. (1942). "On Ant Nesting Habits in North Dakota in 1941 Compared with Drought Years". Canadian Ent. 74, (4), 61-62.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Middle-Thames Naturalist. The Annual Report of the Middle-Thames Natural History Society, 1950, No. 3, 8½ x 5½ in., 36 pp., 2 pls., 1951. Published by the Society and obtainable from the Sec.: Miss B. E. Adamson, 59 Wellington Street, Slough. Price 2s. 6d.

This third number of the Society's journal contains a report of Meetings for the year 1950. A survey of the geology of the Middle-Thames area with a folded map is the main feature.

The entomologist will find interesting material in the articles on parasites of birds and mammals in the area, notes on the insect fauna of birds nests, and a preliminary list of the Heteropterous bugs of the Middle-Thames area. The area covered by this list includes the well known Windsor Forest.

Other items in this number include notes on the Mandarin Duck and a detailed Bird report with a list of the more interesting plants found in Bucks and Berks. Finally there is a short report on the weather with details in chart form of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine.

B. J. SOUTHGATE.
