

the whole of Mexico and Central America so far as the southern boundary of Panama. The work consists of 63 volumes containing 1677 plates (of which more than 900 are coloured) depicting 18,587 subjects. The total number of species described is 50,263, of which 19,263 are described for the first time.

The story of how the work originated over fifty years ago, how it developed and was brought to a successful termination is given in the following pages, where there will be found also exact details of the contents of each volume.

Hitherto the work has been only known to a select circle of scientific men who supported the authors by subscribing to the complete work.

It was privately issued and was not published in the ordinary manner; it has therefore remained unknown to the general public.

When the book was completed Dr. Godman, who was born in 1834, decided to relinquish all further connection with the work that had occupied his entire life, and sold to me the remaining sets of his monumental book in order that it should become better known to those interested and its sale effected by more commercial methods.

BERNARD QUARITCH.