

this head the student is referred to a most valuable paper by Dr. Packard on the *Noctuidæ*, published in the Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural Sciences, I., 153. This paper should be reprinted. It speaks of the natural value of the great families of moths, and contains statements of fact and admonitions to students, which can only be disregarded to the detriment of the study. From the relative intangibility of the structural characters of butterflies and moths, arises some necessary latitude of opinion. In no case is there any excuse for an improper criticism of the opinions of older or of more experienced writers. Rather is there room for a gentler treatment of this subject of our moths, these pretty locks of nature's fleece, so tender and so fleeting! In the paper above alluded to, Dr. Packard complains of the effect of amateurism on the literature of the science. No doubt in one sense the remark is well founded, but this amateurism is rather a proof of the attractiveness of the study and its aesthetic value. For my part I should be glad of the largest possible accession to the ranks of butterfly hunters and students, and I have tried always to do what I could toward creating a larger interest in this field. Elsewhere I have drawn attention to the greater general interest felt in England on the subject, and how valuable an addition to the charms of life the collection of butterflies and moths is proved to be. For this reason I have favored the gradual use of English names, and I have looked forward to the time when the distinction between "amateurs" and "scientists" should be obliterated by good work being done on all hands. Far more do I incline to disapprove of the work of those, whose temperament and training allow them to misrepresent what others have said and done, in order to ease their wounded vanity, or rise by improper criticism. Let us forsake such conduct. We are, as Mr. Scudder would call us, Aurelians, although this title smacks a little of the hobby, and it were well if our kinship in interest would make us kind. There cannot be an agreement, as the world is infinitely diverse.

The tribes of Noctuinæ I have defined are:—1, *Bombycoïdi*; 2, *Apatelini*, including *Bryophila*, although the disposition of the American genera is not settled between these two first tribes; 3, *Agrotini*; 4, *Dicopini*\*; 5, *Hadenini*; 6, *Arzamini*\*; 7, *Nonagriini*; 8, *Scolecocampini*; 9, *Nolaphanini*\*, only *Nolaphana*; 10, *Caradrini*; 11, *Orthosiini*;

\* These groups do not occur in the European fauna,