

literature of the subject, I think he will find Mr. Grote's criticisms on Mr. Morrison's writings and on the species described by him, at least severe enough to justify my statement.

So I am charged with ignoring Mr. Grote's work, and of failing to give him due credit. He writes (Abh. des. n-w Ver. zu Bremen, XIV., p. 16 of separate), after quoting my statement of the bases for subdividing *Agrotis*: "This is only a restatement of my original recommendation. As a matter of fact, throughout Smith merely applies rigorously the structural characters pointed out *by me* long before, and which I lacked time and material to ascertain in the case of each species. In this same paper I say: 'Subdivisions of the genus can be undertaken when the form of the genitalia is studied. This character, taken in connection with the antennal structure, will give us subgenera and assist in the identification of our numerous species.' This is precisely what Smith gives us after a lapse of seven years, and without making proper mention of *my initiatory* work. *He follows my lead as if I had not pointed out the way.*"* Mr. Grote is quite right in the statement that I gave him no credit for the characters used by me, and this is simply because they were not in any sense of the word original with him. Lederer used them in his work on the European Noctuids, so long ago as 1857, and so many other writers, antedating Mr. Grote, used them, that they long since became common or universal knowledge. I made no claim to originality in their use, and concede none to Mr. Grote. I made a bald statement of the characters employed; nothing more. I do claim originality, however, for the use of the claspers instead of the side-pieces (harpes) alone. Lederer used the latter only, and Mr. Grote nowhere went further than Lederer.

Mr. Slingerland questions also whether we shall use *Feltia* or *Agronoma*, because Mr. Grote asserts that the two are synonyms and the latter, with *vestigialis* as type, antedates *Feltia*. Mr. Slingerland failed to find material in Mr. Grote's writings to determine the matter and, quite correctly, does not accept his bald statement as decisive. I gave in my Revision (p. 109), under *Feltia*, the following: "The distinctive characters of the species grouped under the present term are, spinose and quite heavily armed fore tibiae; protuberant, rough front, pectinated or serrate antennae, usually wide wings with dark colours and a tendency to

*The italics are mine.