

have also the Cossidæ, and of the impending removal of the latter to the "Micros," it is quite fifteen years since I first heard the suggestion. In the present list I have attempted considerably more in the way of study than I did in the butterflies. I have made more comparisons and exchanged a far greater amount of correspondence. In one instance, that of *Cosmia*, I have taken the liberty of differing from the authors of all our recognized standard works, and believe a revision of the synonymy, by someone who has seen the types of Grote and Walker, to be necessary. This decision is only after a close inquiry into the matter, a study of a considerable quantity of material from the old world as well as from the new, and correspondence with several specialists who were able to give me information on the subject. It may be, however, that in this, as well as in other points concerning identity, I have come rather too hastily to conclusions. I am indebted to Prof. J. B. Smith and Drs. Ottolengui and Dyar for the names of my Sphinges, Bombyces, Notodontidæ, and a few other families allied thereto. The list of these is not a long one, but I am rather inclined to think that their apparent scarcity may be due to the fact that, in this district at any rate, they are of quiet and retiring habits, and do not often show up. It is to the Noctuidæ that most attention has always been paid, and Prof. Smith has been unceasing in his assistance to me in this group. I am also most fortunate in being in correspondence with Sir George Hampson, of the British Museum, where, of course, a very large number of types are to be seen, and the sending to him of a number of species, with the names by which I have known them, has resulted in the detection of many errors which would probably have otherwise still been overlooked. The first instalment of the Noctuidæ has quite recently been published in Vol. IV. of his "Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenæ in the British Museum," and as a very large number of North American species are therein figured, many of them for the first time, it proves a valuable aid in the determination of species. Dr. Holland's "Moth Book," too, has supplied a long-felt want. In all works of the above kind, however, the practice of sometimes figuring the male of one species and the female of another very closely allied to it, is rather to be deprecated, as it is apt to give the impression that a merely sexual difference is really specific, there not unfrequently being less difference in facies between two species in the same sex than there is between the two sexes of either. It must be borne in mind that in making comparisons between closely allied species, my opinions are based on superficial characters, and I have almost com-