

both are but dimorphic forms of the same species, as I have set forth in C. E., xii., 21. In B. N. A., vol. 2, two plates are devoted to these forms and varieties, and the whole history is given. It is a very curious history too, and one not to be neglected in a work meant for instruction.

A particularly objectionable feature of the work in hand is the manufacture of English names for the species, one and all. The custom of applying such names will never become general in this country, and fortunately. In Europe, before the binomial nomenclature was invented, it was natural that there should be local names for such striking objects as butterflies. A few, some half dozen, European species have become domesticated on this continent, and I have noticed that Americanized English collectors are fond of recalling the vernacular names they knew at home. But even these names have nowhere come to be used commonly here. Some of our authors, however, have exerted themselves to fix such names on all the American butterflies, and the result is fantastic. The greatest sinner in this respect, I regret to have to say, is Mr. Scudder, but as he has lately announced, Science, No. 194, that he regards all names as necessary evils, it would seem to follow that a superfluity of names is an unnecessary evil; therefore I hope to see these appendages dropped in his forthcoming work. No one but the contrivers use them; they do not stick to the insect. No better illustration of this could be offered than in Mr. Maynard's book. What Mr. Scudder calls Blue-eyed Grayling, the other calls the Yellow-spotted Wood; what one calls Eyed Brown, the other Ten-spotted Quaker! what one calls The Viceroy, the other the Banded Red; what one calls the Great Spangled Fritillary, the other the Yellow-banded Silver Wing. Now the butterfly last spoken of is known as *Argynnis Cybele*, the name a beautiful one, by the side of which the appellations above given are as tawdry as they are long-winded. So all through. It is best in Entomology, as in every other kind of learning, that beginners begin right, and as every species has its proper specific name, by which it is universally known, and of which it can never be divested, no elementary work has a right to teach otherwise.

The descriptions of the insects are well enough, except as to the nerves of the wings. These organs have ages ago received names which have been accepted, and there is no reason whatever for changing them, especially in a work of the character of this one. "Middle" is no more simple than "median," and means the same thing; "upper vein" instead