

## BOOK NOTICES.

Rules for regulating nomenclature with a view to secure a strict application of the law of priority in entomological work; compiled by Lord Walsingham and John Hartley Durrant (Merton rules). Longmans, Green & Co., London., New York, and Bombay; 2nd Nov., 1896; 18 pages. Price sixpence.

The rules are for the most part a good statement of current practice, with the suggestion of a considerable number of signs to facilitate brevity of reference without loss of accuracy. These may advantageously be adopted.

Rules 7, 20, 21, 24, 25, 29 and 30 imply a much more rigidly classical attitude in regard to names than is prevalent in America. The authors would have all names according to the rules of Latin orthography, and would change those that are not, even so radically as *gypsodactylus* for *cretidactylus*. Names with similar sound are rejected; e. g., *Ucetia* invalidates *Eusesia*; also those which involve a false proposition, or are offensive politically, morally, or by irreverence.

Rule 12 defines publication as including the possibility of purchase. If the rule be not extended, it would invalidate all species published in Government or private papers which are distributed without charge.

The definition of a genus by designation of type without description is not referred to, and apparently is condemned by implication.

The case of restriction of a heterotypical genus to one type by the successive removal of species to other genera by subsequent authors is not explicitly stated, and might well be added to rule 42.

A few rules about the formation of family names might have been added, for example:

1. Family names shall be formed by adding —idæ to the stem of some genus included in the family.
2. The generic name so used must be a valid one.
3. The first generic name used in a plural form shall be the one so used for the family type unless it be invalid, in which case the next generic name included in the family, which has been used in a plural sense, shall be substituted according to the rule of priority.

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