

CATALOGUE OF THE LEPIDOPTERA PHALÆNÆ IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM,
Vol iv. By Sir George F. Hampson, Bart. London: 1903; xx + 689
pages, with a supplementary volume of coloured plates.

With this volume the Noctuidæ are begun, the classification to be used is outlined, and about one-tenth of the species are treated. Fifteen subfamilies are recognized, based on the usual structural characters, but used in a new order, and a very commendable one it seems to us. The first subfamily, the one treated in this volume, is the Agrotinæ, containing all those Noctuids with trifold venation of the hind wings and spines on the hind tibiæ. This subfamily is remarkably well represented in North America, so that the volume consists largely of our familiar names—I ought to say our familiar species, for the names are very largely changed. The sequence of genera, too, is a new one. The little day-flying *Helionche modicella* heads our list, followed by the Heliothids and Schinias, and finally the bulk of the Agrotids proper. These changes in the generic names were fully to be expected, since now for the first time all the old names are applied to the world fauna. Besides this, secondary sexual characters are not used in generic definition, and this naturally makes a great change in the names as heretofore applied by American authors. We have been in the habit of using these characters very largely. I am therefore pleased to note that there are some of our names that are not changed. I regret that Hübner's "Tentamen" is not adopted. American economic students will hardly recognize the familiar Boll-worm under the new appellation of *Chloridea obscura*, Fab. A part of this change could have been avoided by recognizing the Tentamen; it would have allowed the retention of the generic name *Heliothis*. Our large genus *Carneades* (*Paragrotis*, Pratt, of Bull. 52, U. S. Nat. Mus.), made still larger by the addition of *Rhizagrotis* and *Corhisagrotis*, is called *Euxoa*, Hübn. It would be *Agrotis* if the Tentamen names were applied. The term *Noctua*, Linn., does not appear in the volume, being applied to the South American species *strix*. The process of arriving at this and other types of genera is not elucidated, and it is not clear to us. We can only hope that future workers will not feel obliged to review the matter, and change all the names again.

A few new genera are based on our species, and two new North American species are described. Most ill-advisedly, the name *Californica* has been selected for one of these. This specific name has been used