

AN EXPLANATION.

On the Report of the Entomological Club, as given in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST for November, pp. 246-247, I would make the following remarks :—

Mr. Smith's statement that there are two distinct series in the *Sphingidæ*, as also that the *Smerinthinæ* have their probable origin in Ceratocampid forms of the *Bombycidæ* are both original with myself. The series *Hemaris*, *Choerocampa* and *Smerinthus* belong together. So far as I know, I am the first to show, from imaginal and larval characters, that *Choerocampa* and *Smerinthus* are allied, and I am the first to describe an ocellated Choerocampid from Brazil. The anal horn of the *Sphingidæ* is to be regarded apparently as the last remnant of the *Bombycid* dorsal series of thorns. So far as known to me, I am the first author to point out that older Lepidopterous types occur in America than in Europe, and that from the study of our *Bombycid* fauna fresh suggestions are offered to the probable course of evolution in the order.

To the statement as to the *Zygaenidæ*, p. 246, I would say that I followed Dr. Packard's views in his paper in the Essex Proceedings. Criticisms as to my arrangement in my Lists are sufficiently answered by this statement.

To the remark upon the *Dioptidæ*, p. 247, I would state that I am not "responsible" for the reference of *Phryganidia Californica* to this family, but Mr. Butler, whose reference will be found in the pages of "Papilio".

To the remarks on the *Noctuidæ*, I would state that I consider the group as one family with four unequal sub-family groups: *Thyatirinae* m. (= *Thyatiridae* m.), *Noctuinae*, Pack., *Catocalinae*, Pack., and *Deltoidinae*, Lutr. I have shown in my writings that these groups are further divisible by sufficiently definable characters for classificatory purposes, and I have used the idea of tribes for these subdivisions in the Lecontean sense.

It is Mr. Smith's practice to take from my writings what he can use, without credit, and to hang upon minor points of difference, upon which I have nowhere insisted, criticisms which are generally uncalled for, and, as above instanced as to the *Dioptidæ*, sometimes incorrect.

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