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BOOK NOTICES.

A HAND-BOOK OF BRITISH LEPIDOPTERA, by Edward Meyrick, B. A., F.Z.S., F.E.S., assistant master at Marlborough College. London: MacMillan & Co., and New York, 1895.

This book of 843 pages, illustrated by 104 cuts of venation, describes all the British species of Lepidoptera, 2,061 in number, with descriptions of the genera, families and superfamilies. Full synoptic tables are given, leading down to the separation of species. For the recognition of species, for which it is intended, the work seems admirably adapted. A brief notice of the larva of each species is given, but not enough for identification. What is said, however, is useful and also serves to indicate those species whose life-history is still imperfectly known. The work on the imagoes is stated to be the result of the author's independent observation, but the larval descriptions are compiled. No species are figured. The nomenclature, especially of the higher groups, is occasionally unsatisfactory. There is no synonymy and no references to literature, so that some of the family names are meaningless till after a careful examination of the species included. Some of the changes seem arbitrary and contrary to the rules of priority; e. g., where the Thyatiridæ are called "Polyplocidæ," and the Eucleidæ (= Limacodidæ), "Heterogeneidæ," without any explanation. The spelling of the family names does not conform to the general present custom. A few new genera are described among the Tineids.

The most original and most interesting part of the book is the classification of the Lepidoptera into superfamilies. It differs from any hitherto presented, but is strictly on the lines laid down by recent workers as reviewed by Mr. Tutt (Trans. Ent. Soc., London, 1895, p. 343). Nine superfamilies are created, the lowest, the "Micropterygina," correspond-