

estimating the status of closely related forms. With fully representative material of any two forms to compare, the pattern on the wings tells the story, if the observer can read in the butterfly alphabet. The errors of interpretation come chiefly from the primary fault of mistaking a contrast between less and more for a diversity of like from unlike, or the reverse. In frequent comparisons of *Elis* and *Meadii*, my chief effort has been to ascertain the nature of the difference between them, and my resulting impression is that *Elis* is a valid species, near as it is to *Meadii*. I do not find an overlap of closely similar specimens uniting them, and the two forms appear to have a somewhat diverse plan of pattern, a somewhat dissimilar method of variation, indicating that they are travelling different roads. They are, I take it, already a little different in kind, not merely in degree. In comparing the nineteen *Elis* of the family above mentioned, with the set of caught *Elis*, however, the difference is one which need not be misread, even were the circumstances of origin unknown. It is a difference large in amount, but not signifying alienation. The overlap between the two series consists chiefly of a small proportion of males; several of the most finely developed of the caught set being about of the same rank as several of the least developed males in the bred family. Among all the caught females only one compares in size and fine development with the average of the ten females of this family. Evidently, in this signal advance in race character, the females showed more tendency to depart from type than the males. All the females in this family except one, and more than half the males, far surpass the average of caught set as to breadth of dark borders, and it is a genuine progress, entirely free from that erratic over-development of dark markings often occurring in bred specimens; in these specimens the effect is completely harmonious and symmetrical. In this family there are two colors, both of males and females. Four of the males are yellow-orange, the other five bright red-orange, one of them very fiery orange. Eight females are of the red shade, several being almost of as intense a shade as the most brilliant male; the remaining two are yellow, not so clear and light as the yellow-orange males, but slightly tinged with ochre. The reddest males and females are unlike any *Meadii* in my collection; clearer red than any, and lacking the burned-brick tinge of one very red female *Meadii*. Only two, both females, of the caught *Elis*, are quite of this pure red-orange hue. The caught *Elis* do not specially differ from *Meadii* in the color of disk above primary, and are in general somewhat tinged with ochre; one female is