

subject of preparatory stages, food plants, rearing and describing larvæ, etc., etc. Then follows an index to genera, and the work ends with a most useful food habit index. The general plan of the work is to give the names of all species of which any of the preparatory stages have been described, followed by the references to these descriptions in the order in which they were published, the dates of publication being given. Upon turning to any species one can thus see at a glance just what of its earlier stages have been described, and by looking up the references can tell whether or not they could be supplemented with advantage, while the absence of any species from the list is a very sure indication that its preparatory stages are wholly undescribed. One can thus see just what has already been done and what remains for investigation, and this is most important, for it is undoubtedly the case that many observations of interest and value are made every year without being published, chiefly, perhaps, because those who make them are unaware that they have not previously been given to the world. The amount of literature examined in the preparation of this work was very great, and the care necessary to avoid errors and omissions proportionate. The table on page 7 shows that some part of the earlier stages of 1069 butterflies and moths have been described, but many of these descriptions are very incomplete, and we can thus see how much still remains to be done in working out these life histories. Of course in a work of this kind, where the field was so large, it was inevitable that some mistakes and omissions should occur, but it is most creditable to Mr. Edwards that they should be so few and so unimportant. It was unfortunate that the printing had to be done during the absence of Mr. Edwards in Australia, as otherwise most of the typographical errors would unquestionably have been detected and corrected. It is, however, a mistake to refer to author's separates, instead of to the work in which the description originally appeared, as for example in regard to the larva of *Chionobas Macounii*—the reference given is "J. Fletcher, a trip to Nepigon, p. 12," whereas it ought to be, "J. Fletcher, Rep. Ent. Soc., Ont., 1888, p. 85." It is greatly to be hoped that Mr. Edwards will be able to fulfil his promise to issue yearly supplements, in order that the work may be kept up to date and its usefulness be thus maintained. The price of this work was fifty cents, but the first edition has already been exhausted. It is greatly to be hoped that a new edition will soon be issued, as no working lepidopterist can get on without it. H. H. LYMAN.

Mailed March 3rd.