

## PYRAMEIS CARDUI.

SIR,—Never since I first came to this country in 1893 have I seen any species of butterfly in such abundance as *Pyrameis cardui* is at the present time. During 1893, 1894 and 1895 I don't think I saw a single specimen, though these years seemed particularly favourable to most species. For the past year or two it has been rather common, and I have frequently found the larva on thistle during June. Locally-bred specimens were rather more common than usual last fall, and the same brood (presumably) appeared here with early spring. On May 12th I remarked upon their scarcity, and supposed they had died off, but for the last week they have been getting gradually more numerous, and to-day their numbers appear to have suddenly doubled, if not trebled. I believe I could net a thousand in a day without much difficulty. They do not seem to be travelling in any particular direction, but are evidently a "flight," probably from the South. I have watched the ♀♀ settling on a variety of seedling plants, presumably ovipositing, and in one instance found an egg on sage, and apparently no thistles near.

May 25, 1901.

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## BOOK NOTICES.

MONOGRAPH OF THE SESIIDÆ OF AMERICA, North of Mexico.—By William Beutenmüller. Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. Vol. I., Part vi., pp. 215-352. March, 1901. (Price, \$5.)

In this sumptuous quarto the author has brought together in complete form the results of his studies of the Clear-winged Moths of North America. In arrangement, style and completeness, the work leaves nothing to be desired. The family is divided into 17 genera, each of which is fully characterized and illustrated by a drawing showing the head, hind leg, venation, and in some cases the anal appendages, of a typical species. With each species is given a very full bibliography as well as descriptions of both sexes and the larva, when known, followed by general notes mentioning resemblances to other species, particulars regarding habits, food-plants, distribution, etc. There are also synopses of genera and species, larval food-habits and of the described larvæ, rendering the work easily available for reference and the identification of species. The work