

in a very scholarly manner, and given us a book leaving little to be desired, beyond that constant and bitter craving of naturalists for a knowledge of the earlier stages of life of the insects treated. We could indeed wish that the structural characteristics of the larger divisions had been more amply treated, and that the author had not rested satisfied with groupings in the *Lycaeninæ* and *Hesperidæ*, newly manufactured, confessedly artificial and temporary, and to which the very descriptions which follow do violence. But the excellence of the entire work, the consistent manner in which the task has been carried out, the technical skill, excellent judgment and broad learning everywhere displayed, as well as the very considerable addition to our knowledge involved, disarms adverse criticism and invites only praise. Would that such a *Mæcenas* and such an author might oftener company together!

The work is published in quarto in sumptuous style, is unexceptionable in typography and profusely illustrated. Besides 46 plates of some of the best chromo-lithographs of butterflies which we have ever seen, there are 129 wood cuts scattered through the text, generally illustrating special structural features, especially in neuration and leg structure, which are of the greatest value. The author, as would have been expected of one of our best lepidopterists, familiar with the structure as well as the early stages, the form and coloring of butterflies, has followed closely in the lines of the classification made prominent in recent years by Bates, in which the *Hesperidæ* are immediately preceded by their nearest allies, the *Papilionidæ*. It remains only to say that a good deal of interesting reading will be found scattered through the portly volume, and that there are points in the preface worthy of careful attention. About 500 species are described.

SAMUEL H. SCUDDER.

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THE OTTAWA NATURALIST. Vol. i., Nos. 1 and 2, April and May, 1887.

A welcome addition to our few Canadian serials on Natural Science; we heartily wish it abundant success.

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A REVISION OF THE LEPIDOPTEROUS FAMILY SATURNIIDÆ. By John B. Smith. Proceedings of the United States National Museum. Washington, Dec., 1886.

A very valuable illustrated paper on this interesting family of moths.