

means by the "two forms of *retecta*;" but if he means *retecta*, Grt., and *luctuosa*, Hulst, then, in view of what he says after, *luctuosa* becomes a variety of *retecta*, Grt. 3rd. Prof. French says "*Flebilis* is not a variety of *retecta*," etc. "Dr. Strecker's figure, pl. 9, f. 4, is not *flebilis*, but a small form of *Desperata*," etc. Dr. Strecker does not call figure 4 *flebilis*, but a variety of it. It is, however, except in the black dashes, as near as can be the exact counterpart of pl. 9, fig. 3, which is *flebilis*, taken from Mr. Grote's type. Also these two, save in the black dashes, are the counterparts of pl. 9, fig. 2, which is *retecta*, and which is from Mr. Grote's type. Having seen the types of both *retecta* and *flebilis* I can bear witness that the figures are very excellent. Mr. Grote had among his types of *retecta* one or more specimens of *luctuosa*, Hulst, but his description is of the form figured by Dr. Strecker. 4th. I am glad to learn more of *Ululume*, Streck. I have seen the type, have one of the specimens from which the description was made, and so know the insect. At the time of publishing my synopsis in the Brooklyn Bulletin, Vol. VII., 1884, pp. 13-56, I regarded it as a variety of *lacrymosa*, as did also Dr. Strecker. Let me add that very few of all the so-called varieties of the U. Catocalæ are varieties in the scientific sense. They are simply colour variations, and the continuance of their names is, in the majority of cases, only a convenience, and without scientific authority.

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SECTION F OF THE A. A. A. S.

*Dear Sir*: In the January (1892) number of the Botanical Gazette, Dr. B. D. Halsted, Secretary of Section F of the Association, suggests the formation of a Botanical Section, to be separated from Section F. This is a matter in which entomologists have some interest, and concerning which it might be well to have an expression of opinion. All who have attended recent meetings of the American Association must have noticed what a remarkable development of interest there has been in both botany and entomology, and how crowded were the programmes, not only of Section F, but of the Clubs. At the Washington meeting the writer was on the Sectional Committee, which passed on the papers offered, and even after excluding all of doubtful value or interest, it left so many that a proper presentation was out of the question. A most interesting series of papers on parasitism in insects was read at breakneck speed, and not a word of discussion was allowed. I myself had three papers, for which I had prepared charts in illustration, and which