

and to follow them successfully through all their stages. Thanks to his efforts, the reproach of ignorance of the preparatory states of our butterflies has been removed, and though much remains to be learnt, vast progress has already been made. The first part of the third Series was issued in December, 1886, and in October last we had the pleasure of welcoming the sixteenth. Far from showing any decline from the Author's high standard of excellence, this last issue may justly be regarded as the climax of good work, both on the part of the writer and the artist. All through Mr. Edwards has been fortunate in having his wishes so ably carried out by his artist-assistants, Mrs. Mary Peart, of Philadelphia, who has drawn most accurately nearly all the plates, and, in order to do so satisfactorily, has reared most of the caterpillars, and Mrs. Lydia Bowen, who has so exquisitely performed the work of colouring.

In addition to the great work that we have just referred to, Mr. Edwards has contributed largely to the periodical literature of science, especially to the Proceedings and Transactions of the American Entomological Society and the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST. His first contribution to our pages was published in the third number of our first volume, in 1868, and he has continued to favour us with articles of great value ever since; his last paper, in the September number of Volume XXVII., being the one hundred and sixty-eighth which he has written for our journal.

Mr. Edwards was born on the 15th of March, 1822, and will soon complete his seventy-fourth year. That he may long be spared in health and prosperity to carry on his excellent work is the cordial wish of the writer and all his friends.

C. J. S. B.

THE "BOMBYCES": WHAT ARE THEY?

BY HARRISON G. DYAR, PH. D., NEW YORK.

It might be better to say "what were they?" in an article addressed to readers of to-day, since the name in its old sense will not be found in the most recent writings of Packard, Comstock, Chapman, Grote, and other authors. However, the group is adopted in our latest check-list (Nos. 877-1459), although without its name, Prof. Smith stating that he could not limit the group to his satisfaction. Also, as recently as 1893, Dr. Packard published an "Attempt at a new classification of the Bombyces," including in the group all the families formerly included, but altering their sequence. Following the arrangement of suborders pro-