

is inexhaustible. The most attractive side of the study consists in the curious habits and relationships of the different forms, and here is where the talent of the observer is to be tested. The assorting of collections of specimens is a matter of subordinate tact.

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### CEYLON BUTTERFLIES.

The Lepidoptera of Ceylon, by F. Moore, F. Z. S., Vol. I., (published under the special patronage of the Government of Ceylon) London, L. Reeve & Co., 1880-81. 4°.

The butterflies of the East India region appear to be now in a fair way of receiving their due share of attention. We have already called attention to Distant's invaluable work on the Malayan butterflies, and to the handbook to the butterflies of India and Burmah, by Marshall and De Nicéville. On many accounts neither of these is so important as the earlier work on the Lepidoptera of Ceylon by Frederick Moore, which we desire to introduce to the readers of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST, principally on account of the very considerable accession to our knowledge of the earlier stages of eastern butterflies which is here given in the plates, and also to draw attention to the notes on the natural history of the insects given by Dr. Thwaites, which are embodied in the text. The work as a whole consists of three volumes; but we speak here of the butterflies only, which are comprised in the first volume, published in 1880-81. It is a large quarto, with 71 excellent colored plates, in which the early stages are in very many instances figured side by side with the butterflies. Notwithstanding that it is published under the special patronage of the Government of Ceylon, the work is a costly one, and to one residing in the United States an embargo is laid upon its purchase by the fact that the duties upon such a work are so high. This single volume cost me \$15 for duties and transportation alone. Thus is science encouraged with us!

We are here introduced to a new set of illustrations of the early stages of butterflies, many of which are of extreme interest, and these in every family of butterflies. It is the most important and considerable contribution to our knowledge since Horsfield's memorable volume. It is a pity, however, that in many instances no reference is made in the text, either in Dr. Thwaites' notes, or Mr. Moore's descriptive portion, as to the meaning of certain figures which differ strikingly from those of their allies.