

atmosphere is characterized in spring and early summer by an excessive humidity, surpassing that of the British Islands, while at other periods of the year there is a well marked "dry season." The result of these various facts, taken in connection with the additional fact that at a remote geological period the islands doubtless were connected with the Asiatic and North American mainland, has been the development of a fauna marked by a wonderfully composite character, and revealing to an unusual extent the phenomena of varietal change, and in the case of the insect tribes, seasonal dimorphism. To these phenomena Mr. Pryer has paid especial attention, with the result of ascertaining that not a few of the so-called species erected by recent entomologists, into whose hands Japanese collections have happened to fall, must be relegated to the great and ever-growing mass of synonymical species. This is especially true of the genera *Papilio*, *Pieris* and *Terias*, in which seasonal dimorphism reveals itself most strikingly. The course pursued by Mr. Pryer in massing a large number of forms of the species originally described by Linnaeus as *Terias Hecabe* under the name *Terias Multiformis* Pryer, is open to criticism on the ground that the labour of the elder nomenclator should have been respected and his name retained, while the names of later writers should have been adduced as synonyms. Nevertheless the fact seems to be established beyond reasonable doubt that the species lumped by Mr. Pryer under the newly coined name *Multiformis*, are all mere local or seasonal variations of *Hecabe* L. It was the privilege of the writer to spend many days in Mr. Pryer's laboratory, and he can testify to the painstaking care which he has taken to avoid error in his deductions. The most surprising result of breeding is, however, one which is not alluded to in Part I. of the RHOPALOCERA NIHONICA, since it was only definitely confirmed during the past summer, viz., the discovery that *Terias Bethesba* of Janson is a dimorphic form of *Terias Laeta* of Boisduval. The entire difference in form of the two has naturally led students unhesitatingly to accept them as widely different species. Careful breeding has established their practical identity.

As the first attempt at a comprehensive and accurate survey of a part of the beautiful insect fauna of "Dai-Nippon," the new work will no doubt be hailed with pleasure by all entomologists who raise their eyes beyond the narrow confines of their own immediate neighborhoods, and seek to ascertain the truth as to the whole of Nature.

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