

adopted by the British Association, in 1842. (I have been unable to obtain a copy of this Code, and only know its Rules as I have found them recited in various authors. On applying to Mr. A. G. Butler, Brit. Mus., I received the following reply:—"I can get no exact information as to when and where these Rules were published. At the time, they appeared in the report on the Meeting, and separate copies were struck off and distributed. Most of our Entomologists have either made copies of them or have seen them, and a few say they have printed copies *somewhere*."

This Code was not found to work altogether satisfactorily, and never did receive the general assent of Naturalists in their several departments. Prof. Verrill says, "The success of these Rules was but partial, even in England, for a considerable number of English authors have either ignored them or adopted them in part, often violating the most obvious and important Rules. In Conchology, especially, the violations have been lamentably numerous."

In 1865, a Revised Code was adopted by the British Association, which Code is printed at length in the Am. Journal of Arts and Science, July 1869, with valuable notes by Prof. Verrill. In this Revision some important changes were made, with a view to curing the defects of the original Code, and of gaining a more general acceptance. It is significant that Botany is recommended, by the Committee of Revision, *to be omitted from the operations of the Code*.

These two Codes may, so far as my purpose is concerned, be treated as one and the same, as the Rules that I consider obnoxious are found in both of them, and it is of their application to Entomology only that I have to speak, and more especially as affects the Lepidoptera.

The first Rule reads as follows:—"The name originally given by the describer of a species should be permanently retained, to the exclusion of all subsequent synonyms."

It is declared by those who are familiar with the facts, that the object of this Rule was not to drop out of sight all existing names in favor of a rejected or obsolete name, but to give the right to *that one of the names in use* that should be found to have priority of date.

For a period of years after 1842, it is asserted that such was the understood effect of the Rule, until a generation arose who knew nothing of, or overlooked the circumstances connected with its original proposal, and who took the letter of the Rule as their guide. And gradually there has