

When you know months beforehand what plant you will require, it is best to transplant them to your own grounds, and so have them at hand fresh and growing. By such means I have successfully handled, both for eggs and for larvæ, such species as *Cotias eurydice* and *Lycæna sonorensis*, both of which species it would seemingly have been impossible to manage otherwise.

Breeding is the touchstone which tests all species of butterflies, and by it must they all stand or fall. The larva is as much the individual life as is the imago, and we cannot thoroughly know a species unless we have seen its earlier as well as its later stages. Therefore anything which simplifies the management of the early stages is of interest to the biologist.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### PROF. J. B. SMITH'S LIST OF LEPIDOPTERA.

*Dear Sir:* Prof. French in the January number criticises in some points Prof. Smith's catalogue of the Catocalæ in the *New List of Lepidoptera*. As I was primarily responsible for the list of the Catocalæ, will you and Prof. French kindly allow me an explanation? 1st. Prof. French says "var. *Virens* is not a variety of *Cordelia*, Hy. Edw., but of *Amasia*; and *Cordelia* is not the one figured by Dr. Strecker, pl. 9, f. 12." But *cordelia*, Hy. Edw., is a synonym of *amasia*, Ab. & Sm., and Dr. Strecker's figure is not *amasia*, Ab. & Sm. The error comes from the fact that Abbott & Smith figured two species as ♂ and ♀ of *amasia*, the description being of the upper one only. The insect represented by the lower figure of Abbott & Smith was distributed by Mr. Grote, and figured by Dr. Strecker as *amasia*. Of course the name attaches to the figure described, as afterwards Guenee located it, calling the lower figure *connubialis*. The lower insect I afterwards described as *sancta*, regarding Guenee's name as without authority, as the description was from a picture. Whether I was right or not I will not here say, but the insect distributed by Mr. Grote, and figured by Dr. Strecker as *amasia*, is either *connubialis*, Gn., or *sancta*, Hulst; while the *amasia* of Abbott & Smith is the *cordelia* of Hy. Edwards, as Mr. Edwards afterwards acknowledged to me. *Virens* was put as a variety of *amasia*, Ab. & Sm., because Prof. French thus located it, and I supposed he meant *amasia*, Ab. & Sm. 2nd. Prof. French says "there is no good reason for separating the two forms of *relecta*." I am not sure what he