

wings correctly, and this seems to have been done quite successfully. The colouring, however, is not as satisfactory, in some cases, as could have been desired.

The introduction gives a complete history of the sub-family and of their structure and classification, and, at the end, a synoptical table of the genera of the Phycitini, the first division of the Phycitinæ. The second division (Anerastini) and the Galleriinæ will appear in the next volume.

It will be seen that M. Ragonot does not agree with many English and American entomologists in classification, for he regards these insects as a sub-family, while many others give them family rank. I must confess that I have, for a long time, been of M. Ragonot's opinion, and varied from it in Smith's List of the Lepidoptera only for the sake of uniformity, since the plan of that work was determined by others. It was a case of "Mohamet and the mountain."

The entire work will form two volumes of Romanoff's magnificent Memoirs of the Lepidoptera, and all the species will be figured, so far as it is possible to secure specimens, except such as have already been figured. American students of the Microlepidoptera, as well as those of other countries, owe a debt of gratitude, not only to Mons. Ragonot for the excellent manner in which he has done his work, but also to His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Nicolas Mikhailovitch, for affording M. Ragonot the opportunity of publishing this beautiful and useful work, and of illustrating it so profusely.

C. H. FERNALD.

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EVOLUTION AND TAXONOMY: An essay on the application of the theory of natural selection in the classification of animals and plants, illustrated by a study of the evolution of the wings of insects and by a contribution to the classification of the Lepidoptera, by John Henry Comstock, B. S. The Wilder Quarter-Century Book, pp. 37-113.

All scientific entomologists will be gratified at the appearance of this paper, which is an attempt to base a classification of the Lepidoptera upon the ground of evolution. It is evolution by natural selection, not befogged by the questionable action of so-called "acquired characters." The Lepidoptera are divided into two suborders, the Jugatæ and Frenatæ, according to the two essentially different methods of uniting the fore and hind wings in flight.

The primitive venation is supposed to have consisted of six principal veins or groups of veins, from which the present ones were derived by a