

THE EDWARDS COLLECTION OF BUTTERFLIES.

The Editor of the Canadian Entomologist:

DEAR SIR,—I have read with interest your account of the life of my deceased friend, Mr. William Henry Edwards, in the August number of the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST. I detect on the last page an error. It is not of great importance, but you are incorrect in stating that Mr. Edwards's "extensive and valuable collections were purchased a few years ago by the Carnegie Institution at Pittsburgh and are now in the care of Dr. W. J. Holland, the Director." Long before the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh existed, or was even thought of, Mr. Edwards, being desirous of publishing the third volume of the "Butterflies of North America," but lacking the necessary funds, wrote me that he contemplated selling his collection, and intended offering it to the Trustees of the British Museum in the hope thereby of securing enough money to enable him to go on with his work. I wrote to him urging him not to do this, as in my judgment the types of his species should be preserved in America, and made him an offer to pay the bills for the publication of the third volume of the Butterflies of North America, as they became due, on condition that his collection should be turned over to me when he was through with the same and had completed his studies. This was done. I paid the bills for the drawing, lithographing, and printing of the plates and text of the third volume of "The Butterflies of North America," and finally received his entire collection, which forms a part to-day of my own private collection, which I have in recent years deposited in the Museum of the Carnegie Institute, desiring, while having it near by me, to make it available, with other collections, for purposes of study on the part of American students.

As I have intimated, the matter is not of burning importance, but your statement conveys an entirely erroneous impression of the transaction. I have always pleased myself with the thought that I was rendering a service to the cause of American science by retaining in this country Mr. Edwards's types, and I think I ought to have the credit for doing what I did, and that it should not be given to an institution which was not in existence at the time.

W. J. HOLLAND, Director Carnegie Museum.