

from works in which they stand as bare names, undefined and undescribed.

3. In the Preface to the Historical Sketch we naturally look for a statement of the plan upon which the author has worked, and the principles on which he relies for the correct exposition of generic names. And we read that he adopts in general—not the rules of the British Association—but those principles regarding genera enunciated by Agassiz, and more recently by Dr. Thorell in his work on European Spiders, “*with such exceptions and modifications as are indicated in my Canons of Systematic Nomenclature*” (published in Am. Jl. Sci. and Arts, May, 1872). Agassiz not being at hand, I turn to Thorell as quoted by Wallace, Anniv. Address, p. 10, and read: 1. “*There must be definition and description and publication. A recognizable figure of a species is sufficient, but of a genus there must be a description pointing out the generic characters.*” And Thorell adds: “*A new genus that has been distinguished merely by referring to some particular species of an older genus as its type, without in any way indicating which of the CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPECIES IS TO BE CONSIDERED AS THE MARK OF THE NEW GENUS, NO ONE CAN BE LOOKED UPON AS BOUND TO ACKNOWLEDGE.*” Nevertheless, it appears to me advisable to do so if the species referred to deviate in any generally known way from the typical species of the old genus, and always if the new genus has been once received and acknowledged.” With the proposition laid down in the first part of this clause I fully agree, and it is in accord with the Rule of the Br. Ass’n. The last part is advisory, and taken with the other, means that while Dr. Thorell would concede a standing to genera already adopted and in use, he would require definition and description and publication in future, and would permit no genus to be based on a mere reference to a type, except in one extraordinary case, that of a well known variation from the typical species of the old genus. This advisory clause expresses an individual opinion and is propounded for the consideration of naturalists. But were it a law, it would afford scanty support to these new Hübnerian genera. There is no evidence that in any one of those taken from the Tentamen or from Franck’s Catalogue, etc., the typical species designated by the author of the Hist. Sketch differs in any generally known manner from the remaining species of the old genus, and certainly these genera have not been received and acknowledged.

And what are the “exceptions and modifications” indicated in Mr. Scudder’s Canons? Canon 3 reads: “The mere enumeration of its