

These cases, rare as they are, are very satisfactory. Nor can it be wondered at that few members of a race hardly emerging from its Stone Age should be able to take advantage of the complex civilization of the Europe of to-day.



RED AND WHITE BUTTERFLIES, AND "PROTECTIVE COLOURING."

BY M. R. EWOR.



THE following note may be interesting, as it seems to illustrate the theory of Protective Colouring, so much in vogue nowadays.

All through the sunny months of March and April of this present year of grace the writer has been much struck by the unusual number of butterflies, fluttering over a certain sunny herbaceous border in his garden. White ones there have been galore, the handsome sulphur-coloured ones, and that dear old friend of our childhood, the Red Admiral, by fours and fives at a time. The border thus favoured slopes south, and is always warm and sunny, being protected from the cold winds by a high laurel hedge to the north and east. The soil is a yellowish clayey loam, baked nearly white by the long-continued drought. But through this whitish earth a reddish brick-coloured clay crops up in patches here and there, about a foot or so square. And on these patches of reddish clay, cropping up through the whitish loam around it, some of the Red Admirals might always be found, resting in the sunshine as though half asleep, sometimes with their wings outstretched, sometimes with them tightly furled, or lazily opening and shutting them at intervals. When they were upon the ground, unless the eye caught the movement of their wings as the insect folded or opened them, it was almost impossible to distinguish the butterfly from the ground on which it rested, so exactly did the red colouring of its extended wings, with the sunshine upon them, match the bricky hue of the soil. When the wings were folded so that no red was visible, the dark brown underpart was just the shape and colour of the little points of dark shadow cast by the small rough lumps of clay on the bed.

The white or yellow butterflies I never saw resting thus upon the ground of this herbaceous border. They were to be found generally on the clumps of white allison, or on the patches of bright yellow or purple allison which succeeded it, and presented