

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

*Dear Sir:* There be criticisms and criticisms; those intended as friendly and those intended as destructive in character, and sometimes one is as unwittingly unjust as the other may be intentionally so. Mr. Dyar's notice of the List of Lepidoptera, in the February number of the CAN. ENT., calls forth this moralizing expression. Mr. Dyar is evidently a friendly critic, and I feel obliged for his kind words; but some of the "inaccuracies and omissions" are misleading. The List went to the printer in June, the Bombycids were printed in August, and Mr. Hudson's descriptions of *Dasychira* and *Cerura* did not appear until September or October.

*Sarothripa reveyana*, S. V., is not an omission. Speyer showed years ago that the American forms were distinct from the European, and he named the Americans *S. lintneriana*. I might have cited *reveyana* in error as a synonym of *lintneriana*; but can hardly be charged with an omission.

*Gastropacha alescensis*, Pack., is unknown to me, except in the casual reference by Stretch. It is not given in Dr. Packard's monograph of the *Bombycid*, nor does it appear in Mr. Grote's lists. I have not examined all of Dr. Packard's writings; but in the list of "The Entomological Writings of Dr. Alpheus Spring Packard," by Samuel Henshaw, Bulletin 16 of the Division of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, there is no mention of any *G. alescensis* in the "Systematic Index of the New Names Proposed." It is quite fair to assume that no such species was ever described, until Mr. Dyar points out the place of original description.

The compiler of a list cannot reasonably be held to a special knowledge of all groups, and if he gives the condition of affairs as it stands in literature at the time, he has made no error. As literature stood when I wrote, *Arctia sciurus* had been referred to *Euchates collaris*, and I could not know that Mr. Edwards had reached a different conclusion—even now Mr. Dyar does not state positively that *sciurus* is *not* a variety of *collaris*. Unpublished synonymy does not form a good basis for a charge