

Seudder, several years ago, furnished me the names he adopted in his revision of this family,—the only family, by the way, connected with our fauna, which needed revision,—sending them from Europe, and I received his list barely in time to include it in the closing pages of the Synopsis and my volume, with no interval for examination or explanation. To this day it stands a bare list of names, without authority, the groups indicated never having received definition. It was at once found objectionable on account of the excessive restriction of the groups called genera, there being no less than thirty-nine to one hundred and six species. Prof. Zeller, (Ent. Zeit. Stet. 1874), might well ask, "what would become of us if all the Hesperians of the world, and all the Lepidoptera also, were thus split up into such genera. The least result would be that the difficulty of determining the species would resolve itself into the greater one of determining the genus." Some few of these groups would doubtless stand as genera, if defined, but in most cases, there is no reason why several should not be embraced in a single genus. That I gave them currency and endorsement through the Synopsis has been a matter for regret.

Inasmuch as the Hesperidæ undoubtedly needed revision, Dr. Otto Speyer kindly consented, at the request of Mr. Linthner, to undertake the task. It is believed that the arrangement proposed by him will be satisfactory. But it must not be forgotten that any present arrangement of this family, much more for one geographical section of it, is only provisional. Of this Dr. Speyer himself writes: "A systematic treatment of the Hesperidæ is a very difficult task, and, according to my opinion, can only be accomplished with reference to the whole known family, in all parts of the world, of which the American Hesperians form only a small fragment. But as there exists at present no general system for this family answering all demands, and as there is not likely to be one very soon, local specialists are obliged to confine themselves, whether they will or not, to their own species. Even for the European fauna, we have been obliged to content ourselves with a highly deficient provisional grouping of the Hesperians, so imperfect indeed, that I have not been able yet to accept these so-called genera, and in my own collection, I still bring everything under the name *Hesperia*,—a procedure allowable, under the circumstances, for the European fauna, poor in species, but not suitable for the richer American fauna."

W. H. EDWARDS.

Coalburgh, W. Va. Feb. 1877.