

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## "DIE SATURNIDEN."

SIR,—In comment upon my friend Dr. Dyar's kind notice of my classification of the *Saturniides*, I would say that I believe the stinging spines of *Hemileuca* and *Automeris* may have developed along different lines from an initiatory existence in a common ancestor. I place, therefore, the origin of these groups lower down, approximating, in my "tree," *Hemileuca* seems to me to have differentiated from the lower and primitive type (which latter is *Agliid* and has retained more of the *Tineides* characters) by the achieving of the Saturniid character of the forking of IV, and IV<sub>2</sub>. This character is of the first importance and indicates the original divergence of the primitive group. In my "tree," I show by the relative heights the relative specialization of the subfamilies. With regard to *Aglia*, it does not seem to me to be necessary that the larva should have reacquired, but merely retained, the anal tubercles which have become lost in *Citheronia*. The latter is a degenerate type. In my "tree," I have carried *Citheronia* beyond the base of the *Aglia* stem, to show its independent devolution; but only a little way beyond, because, in a vertical view, *Citheronia* represents the lowest Saturnian form, retaining vein VIII, which both *Aglia* and *Automeris* have lost. I place *Automeris* higher than *Hemileuca*, which Dr. Dyar has not noticed. *Automeris* and *Aglia* are more specialized in other directions, but have retained the primitive location of IV<sub>2</sub>. All these points have been considered in my "tree."

A. RADCLIFFE GROTE, A. M.

## RARE BUTTERFLIES.

Euptoieta Claudia.—Toronto, 1893 (am not sure of month, but think I took it in July).

Libythea Bachmani.—Caesarea, 12th August, 1896.

Satyrus Alope.—Niagara Falls, Canadian side, 14th July, 1896.

Colias Caesonia.—Toronto, 13th, 20th, and 27th June, 1896. Fairly common.

Papilio Ajax.—Toronto, 27th June, 1896. Saw several specimens, but only took the one. Saw first one on 14th June.

Pieris Oleracea.—Æstiva—Caesarea, 12th August, 1896.

ARTHUR GIBSON, Toronto.

Mailed November 3rd.