

BOOK NOTICE.

THE BUTTERFLIES OF THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.—By William Greenwood Wright. Price, postpaid, \$4.35. Published by the author, 445 F. St., San Bernardino, California.

For a score of years Mr. Wright has been known to North American Lepidopterists as a keen and enthusiastic collector of butterflies, and now he has given to the world the results of his labours in the form of this large and handsome volume. It is profusely illustrated with 32 plates in colour photography, containing over 900 examples, and depicting all the species of butterflies, except the very commonest, that are found on the Pacific Coast. There is also a portrait of the author as a frontispiece, which forms a welcome addition to the book. One is struck at the first glance with the wealth of species that are unknown to us here, as for example in *Parnassius*, *Anthocharis*, *Synchlœ* and *Chionobas*, and the abundance and variety in *Pieris*, *Colias*, *Melitæa*, *Chrysophanus* and other genera. For these plates and descriptions alone the book is well worth having, and anyone who exchanges with western collectors will find it most useful as well as delightful; to our friends in British Columbia it is surely indispensable.

The first part of the volume, some thirty pages, is taken up with "General features of Butterfly life," and contains the author's views on many points of interest, respecting some of which there is much diversity of opinion. There are also some good hints on collecting and preserving specimens. This is followed by a complete list of the butterflies of the United States, with localities, which will be found of much value. The body of the work consists of notes upon each species and variety taken in the "West Coast" region, giving the points of difference between varieties and disputed species, and descriptions of a number of new species. As a rule the figures on the plates are considered to be sufficient for identification without description, especially as the upper and under surfaces of both sexes are generally depicted. There are no doubt some instances where the author's conclusions will not be accepted by others, but we are not competent to offer any opinion upon them. A satisfactory decision can only be arrived at by those who have studied these butterflies in their native haunts and who have reared the varieties for more than one generation. We hope that the book will be in demand all over the Continent, and that the author may not suffer pecuniarily in his enterprise; certainly anyone who procures it cannot fail to be pleased, and it will form an admirable complement to Dr. Holland's "Butterfly Book."