

On p. 459, *Chionobas Stretchii*, Edw., is excluded from consideration, on the ground that it is the same thing as *Hipparchia Ridingsii*, "of the same author." As the fact that *Stretchii* was not a *Chionobas* has been known for many years, and published in my catalogues, it was not necessary to refer to it in the Revision. But I will take this opportunity to say that the types, a single pair, have disappeared. They were returned by me to Dr. Behr, after description, 1870. I did not consider them *Ridingsii* then, of course. Now, on comparing the description with that species, I am sure it is not *Ridingsii*. Nor is it *Dionysius*, the other of the known American species of *Neominois*. Mr. Bruce has suggested that it may be a third species of the genus, inhabiting Nevada (whence the types came) and the deserts of N. E. California, a region thus far wholly unexplored by naturalists. Mr. W. G. Wright goes there with a party of botanists and ornithologists the coming summer, and I trust he will re-discover *Stretchii*.

The value of publications of the class of the Revision under view depends much on whether or no the author is thoroughly acquainted with his subject, and such acquaintance implies considerable experience as a lepidopterist, and study of the forms he undertakes to speak of. He should have an eye for specific differences, and while this comes in part by training, it is largely a natural gift. Some lively workers go all their days without having this originally or attaining it. He should have made himself acquainted with the preparatory stages of as many of the species treated of as possible, for there never will be a final, authoritative revision of any genus of butterflies whatever till these stages in every species of it are known. Species are clearly distinguished by the form and sculpture of their eggs, by the forms and appendages of the caterpillars, and by the peculiarities of the pupæ, as by the facies of the imago. No man can speak with authority who relies simply on the facies of the imago. This feature has been the occasion of the endless and irreconcilable differences that prevail in nearly all genera up to this day. To proceed further in the same direction is plainly a waste of time. It is a case of the blind leading the blind to undertake to bring order out of the confessed confusion by appealing to facies. Add to the qualifications I have enumerated an acquaintance with the behaviour, habits of flight, and localities of the species, either from personal observation or reliable reports of thoroughly good observers. When an author has this equipment he may with good reason undertake to revise genera, and his decision will be respected.