

MONOGRAPHS OF N. AMERICAN LEPIDOPTERA.

The growing interest in Entomology, and especially in the study and collection of the Lepidoptera, seems to indicate that a ready means of reference to certain groups which may be chosen for examination, is among the greatest needs of the science to-day. To endeavor to supply this want in the most practical manner, the undersigned have for three years past gathered material, and solicited aid from some of the most eminent entomologists of this and other countries, and with the promise of pecuniary assistance from influential gentlemen in New York, are enabled to announce that they will shortly prepare for publication the monographs hereafter mentioned. These will be issued as rapidly as possible, the editors only pledging themselves to lose little time in placing the various numbers before the entomological public. The price charged for each will be a very small amount above the actual cost, the object being to bring the series within the reach of all who are interested in this branch of Natural History. Though occasionally dealing with insects of other countries, in the case of homogeneous genera, it will be the object of the projectors to pay the greatest attention to the species of the United States, and it is confidently asserted that with a fair amount of patronage, they will present to the entomologists of America one of the most valuable works ever offered to the scientific world. The species of every group treated of will be figured in detail, and as far as known, the earlier stages will be given. The illustrations in colors will be ample and complete, and peculiarities of the structure will always be given in the most careful manner. Though until the present, only privately announced, the scheme now made public has long occupied the attention and thought of the editors, and they have received promises of support and assistance from many distinguished entomologists. Among the monographs already promised are the following:

1. The genus *DATANA*, by S. Lowell Elliot and Henry Edwards.
2. *GEOMETRIDÆ*, described since 1875, by Dr. A. S. Packard, Jr.
3. The genus *ICHTHYURA*, by Roland Thaxter.
4. The family *ÆGERIADÆ*, by Henry Edwards.
5. The *COCHLIOPODÆ* (Limacodes, etc.) of the United States, by Henry Edwards.
6. The recently described species of the *HESPERIDÆ*, by Eugene M. Aaron.
7. The genus *ARCTIA*, by R. H. Stretch.

8. The LYCÆNIDÆ of the United States, by W. H. Edwards.
9. HALISIDOTA and allies, by B. Neumoegen.
10. The genus EUCHÆTES, by Henry Edwards.

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As some groups are so much smaller than others, and as all species will be illustrated (as before stated) in colors, with their transformations as far as known, it will of course be impossible to fix a general price for the numbers, but the assurance is herewith given that no profit will be charged upon the work beyond that sufficient to cover the actual outlay. Further particulars will shortly be issued.

Editors: { Henry Edwards, Wallack's Theatre, New York.
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TOUCHING THE SO-CALLED "CONTROVERSY" CONCERNING SPECIES.

BY A. G. BUTLER, F. L. S., F. Z. S., etc.

In a paper published in *PAPILIO*, pp. 151-155, Mr. Elwes comes to the front as a supporter of Dr. Hagen; he says, "Mr. Edwards seems to think just as Mr. Butler did when I ventured some notes on the genus *Colias* three years ago in the Transactions of the Entomological Society, that because a man has not been a lepidopterist, and nothing else all his life, he has no right to speak or to have an opinion on the subject."

I should be glad to know how Mr. Elwes became gifted with such erratic second-sight as to perceive so distorted, not to say suicidal, a picture of my mind; as probably one of the last general entomologists obliged, by "circumstances over which I have had no control," to dip more or less deeply into every order of insects, I should surely be the last to hold a view so narrow. When briefly criticizing an aggregation of names of species within arbitrary limits, by a man who certainly had not reared many (probably not one) from the egg, I commented upon a remark of the author thus: "That it does 'require special training to appreciate' specific differences is a truism which no entomologist who has specially studied any branch of his science will be inclined to dispute; for that very reason it is unwise for any naturalist, when taking up the study of a branch of science comparatively new to him, to plunge at once into the most difficult genus in that branch, and criticize the work of all previous laborers in the same field." Now, in this para-



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