BOOK NOTICES.

A LIST OF THE BUTTERFLIES OF SUMATRA, with especial reference to the species occurring in the north-east of the Island. By L. de Nicéville and Hofrath Dr. L. Martin. Calcutta. Reprinted from the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1895.

This list of seven hundred and fifty-six species of butterflies taken in a limited portion only of the great Island of Sumatra, gives one some idea of the wealth of the insect fauna in tropical regions. In a very interesting introduction the authors give a brief description of the Island, which is nearly as large as France and is bisected by the equator, and relate the difficulties that have to be surmounted in the formation of a collection of its butterflies, which can only be effected by employing natives, who have first to be taught and trained for the purpose. Dr. Martin lived for thirteen years on the Island and has thus been enabled to add very interesting notes on the distribution, scarcity or rarity, habits, season of occurrence, etc., of a large number of species. One may, therefore, open the list anywhere and find not a mere record of names, but highly interesting details regarding the butterflies. As might naturally be expected, the preparatory stages of the majority of the species are as yet unknown.

A LIST OF THE BUTTERFLIES OF SIKHIM, by Lionel de Nicéville, F. E. S., etc. Calcutta: from the Gazetteer of Sikhim. Printed at the Bengal Secretariat Press.

Probably no part of the great British Empire of India and its tributary States has been so fully explored by the collectors of butterflies as the country of Sikhim, which includes the famous health resort of Darjeeling, about 7,000 feet above the sea, on the slopes of the Eastern Himalayas. Consequently the author is able to record in this list no less than six hundred and thirty-one species, which he considers a near approach to the maximum number that can be discovered. Certainly it is a goodly number, and one hard to be realized by a dweller in these northern and much less luxuriant regions. And what splendid creatures they are, with their gorgeous colouring and infinite variety of shapes and hues. Nearly fifty species of *Papilio*s alone are recorded, and more than one hundred and fifty *Lycænida*æ, the greater number of which belong to genera that are entirely unknown to us here.

CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE SESIIDÆ FOUND IN AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO, by William Beutenmüller, pp. 111-148, Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., VIII., 1896.

The writer of the present brief notice of this excellent paper on the *Sesiidæ* desires to call attention to the very careful work of Beutenmüller on the clear-wings and the necessity for this work which has arisen from the uncritical publications of preceding authors. It appears, for instance, that our *S. lustrans*, a species well distinguished by antennal peculiarities, has been five times the subject of new descriptions by the late Mr. Hy. Edwards, whose species are very properly reduced, as appears from Beutenmüller's studies. The name hitherto used for this species itself must, it seems, give way to *bassiformis*, Walk., described from a type in poor condition. Beutenmüller is quite correct in calling attention to the particular necessity in this group for good material from which to describe. The want, perhaps, of such material led Mr. Edwards to describe *S. rutilans* six times over. A large number of sexual determinations by Mr. Edwards are corrected by Mr. Beutenmüller, so it seems hardly possible for anyone to have worked with less judgment. The list of the clear-wings in the New York Check List was drawn up, with the rest of the list, by the writer of the present lines, who at the time merely sent the last proof to the late Mr. Hy. Edwards for his revision. Mr. Edwards added, in explanation, the two foot-notes on page 12 and signed these, and made one or two changes in his names for genera on page 11. The writer is also responsible for the list of the clear-wings, since he originally wrote the same, and not Mr. Edwards. The explanation is here given, as the list has been erroneously alluded to as the work of Mr. Edwards. In the Philadelphia list the New York list is generally copied, but *lustrans* is wrongly given to Mr. Hy. Edwards, and an implication is conveyed in the preface that Mr. Hy. Edwards was the author of the list of the clear-wings, which is here corrected. The writer trusts that Mr. Beutenmüller will continue his studies and that lepidopterists generally will help him in every possible manner. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Mr. Beutenmüller's timely work is also of such good quality. The writer would merely reclaim his *Sesia pictipes*, which is also given to Mr. Hy. Edwards, on p. 134, and draw attention to the excellent description of the habits of this species given by the late Dr. Bailey in the pages of the *American Entomologist*.

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