

CORRESPONDENCE.

PROF. J. B. SMITH'S LIST OF LEPIDOPTERA.

Dear Sir: There be criticisms and criticisms; those intended as friendly and those intended as destructive in character, and sometimes one is as unwittingly unjust as the other may be intentionally so. Mr. Dyar's notice of the List of Lepidoptera, in the February number of the CAN. ENT., calls forth this moralizing expression. Mr. Dyar is evidently a friendly critic, and I feel obliged for his kind words; but some of the "inaccuracies and omissions" are misleading. The List went to the printer in June, the Bombycids were printed in August, and Mr. Hudson's descriptions of *Dasychira* and *Cerura* did not appear until September or October.

Sarothripa reveyana, S. V., is not an omission. Speyer showed years ago that the American forms were distinct from the European, and he named the Americans *S. lintneriana*. I might have cited *reveyana* in error as a synonym of *lintneriana*; but can hardly be charged with an omission.

Gastropacha aleascensis, Pack., is unknown to me, except in the casual reference by Stretch. It is not given in Dr. Packard's monograph of the *Bombycid*, nor does it appear in Mr. Grote's lists. I have not examined all of Dr. Packard's writings; but in the list of "The Entomological Writings of Dr. Alpheus Spring Packard," by Samuel Henshaw, Bulletin 16 of the Division of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, there is no mention of any *G. aleascensis* in the "Systematic Index of the New Names Proposed." It is quite fair to assume that no such species was ever described, until Mr. Dyar points out the place of original description.

The compiler of a list cannot reasonably be held to a special knowledge of all groups, and if he gives the condition of affairs as it stands in literature at the time, he has made no error. As literature stood when I wrote, *Arctia sciurus* had been referred to *Euchaetes collaris*, and I could not know that Mr. Edwards had reached a different conclusion—even now Mr. Dyar does not state positively that *sciurus* is *not* a variety of *collaris*. Unpublished synonymy does not form a good basis for a charge

of inaccuracy. As to *Edema albicosta*, Hbn., I find on my cards after the reference to the original description:—"1825, Treit. Schmett. Eur. V., 2, 167=*albifrons* with an erroneous locality." Packard omits the name altogether, while Mr. Grote lists it as distinct. As to *Cerura*, Mr. Dyar is entirely correct. I copied the species as given in his table; but unfortunately in preparing the MSS. for the printer I failed to number *scitiscrupta*. The name was therefore put in italics and I failed to notice the error in reading proof. *Hemileuca neuwoegeni* and *Eutheca mora* are genuine cases of omission.

I have replied to Mr. Dyar's criticisms because they were kindly and therefore very much more apt to convey weight; also to show that it is not safe to assume that criticisms are always well founded even when not replied to.

J. B. SMITH.

MANUAL OF THE MICROLEPIDOPTERA OF N. AMERICA.

Prof. C. H. Fernald, of Amherst, Mass., is at work on a manual of the Microlepidoptera of North America, a work for which his studies of the last twenty years have admirably fitted him. He has made two trips to Europe for the purpose of studying the types of our Micros in the European museums, and has studied all the prominent collections in this country. His magnificent library and collections of these moths afford him the best possible facilities for carrying out this work, which will prove a task which anyone else could hardly undertake. The immensity of this work is appalling when we consider the extent of territory embraced, the great number of species, and particularly the fact that we have so few good collectors of Micros in this country.

Prof. Fernald is particularly desirous that collectors should give especial attention to the collection of Microlepidoptera for the next few years.

OBITUARY.

It is with the deepest sorrow that we have to announce the death, on 15th March, of Mr. F. B. Caulfield, of Montreal, who has been for many years an active member of our Society. His loss will be keenly felt by the members of the Montreal branch, of which he has always been one of the chief supports. We tender our sincerest sympathy to his sorrowing family.

Mailed April 2nd.