

generally sound view of our provision for education to interested foreigners; and to our own students of education in this country, whether superintendents, principals, teachers or university students, it is a store-house of information; at the same time it suggests our many and complex educational problems vividly, and it shows their intimate relation to the other problems of our national life. Its great value to all students of our social and educational problems is indisputable, both as a book of reference and as a foundation for further study.

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Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalænæ in the British Museum. Vol. II., Arctiidae (part).

By SIR GEORGE F. HAMPSON, Bart.

This volume is similar to Volume I., issued in 1898, and which treated of the family Syntomidae. It contains the same advantages of practicable keys to genera and species, being simply invaluable to the working entomologist.

The title is misleading, as the work is really a monograph of the groups treated, embracing the known fauna of the entire world, not simply a catalogue of the species represented in the collection of the British Museum, though it may be noted that this collection possesses examples of 77 per cent. of the species described. Each genus and species is described briefly, but characteristically.

The volume contains the subfamilies Nolinæ and Lithosiinæ of the Arctiidae, as classified by the author. These groups would seem to be more properly of family rank, especially the Nolinæ, which, on larval and pupal characters, show a separate origin from a low Tineid type to that of the Lithosiinæ, which are themselves a true derivative of the Arctiinæ and properly classified here. The larval characters of these groups are, in fact, well marked, though not clearly brought out in the volume before us.

On page 256 we note a curious error, where *Seirarctia bolteri* Edw. is given as a synonym of *Protosia terminalis* Walk., whereas it is really the same as *Halisdota ambigua* Streck., belonging in the Arctiinæ.

There are a number of curious modifications of structure clearly brought out, such as the antennæ of *Chamaïta*, the hind wings of *Boenasa* and the larva of *Nola argentalis*; but for the details of these we must refer to the book itself.

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DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF PITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The interesting study of Pity in the July *American Journal of Psychology* suggests some further considerations. In the first place pity as grief for another's pain is not sufficiently set off from mere sympathy, *Mitleid*, in the literal sense as partaking of another's pain by direct contagion. All kinds of emotions are contagious, and in the case of fear we denote it by a special name, panic. But it is plain that panic is not pity for fear, but really hinders it; and in general the mere partaking an emotion or feeling interferes so far with emotion for emotion, such as pity. Emotion by contagion adds no new psychic quality, as panic fear is simple fear; but pity is a new specific reaction, and not a mere communication. In contagious painful feeling we seek to suppress the cause; but pity moves us to seek the sufferer, to relieve him not for our own sake, but for his sake. Pity as altruistic grief has thus a quality of its own, as has altruistic joy as distinguished from contagious joy.

Again, this study scarcely notes whether animals pity, and how far pity plays a part in the general struggle of existence as between competitors and as between the hunters and hunted. We judge it likely that the biological origin of pity in its general form is the perversion of parental sympathy in the predaceous animals by the prey as a last resort, the prey thus by cunning circumventing the stronger. The occasional adoption by lions and other ferocious animals in menageries of small beasts offered them as food suggests this, and a closer study of beasts in their natural habitat may show some indications of pity-inspiring as a sub-human method in life and death issues. Certain it is that animals sometimes consciously or unconsciously take advantage of the human