

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor:

SIR,—Your notice of “The Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences,” edited, I believe, by Mr. Grote, reminds me that I have a duty to perform.

Mr. Grote has, I am told, named and described a new *Sesia* in the Bulletin (*Sesia marginalis* I think is the name.) To this insect Mr. Grote has no sort of right of any kind, nor had he any right to name or describe it.

It was, as I am informed, simply sent to him by my friend, Mr. Strecker, for the purpose of obtaining his opinion as to whether it was a new species or not, and as it was consigned to Mr. Strecker by me for the express purpose of having it described and figured in his new work now being issued, I must protest against Mr. Grote's action in this matter, and trust that Entomologists generally will mark their disapprobation of this grab game by ignoring altogether Mr. Grote's very unbecoming action in the premises.

W. V. ANDREWS.

P. S.—I shall send the insect to Europe for description, &c., with an explanation of the circumstances.

New York, Aug. 1, 1873.

NOTE BY ED.—We really are unable to sympathize with our correspondent in his grievance. If he has ever done anything in descriptive Entomology he must know what an immense amount of labour is oftentimes involved in the effort to ascertain whether a particular insect has been described before or not. Unless one is thoroughly conversant, by dint of hard study and research, with the group or family to which an insect belongs, one must spend hours of work in hunting through, not only the descriptions of American Entomologists, but also the French, German and Latin, as well as English descriptions of European authors. After all this has been done and one arrives at the conclusion that the insect in question is new to science, it does seem a little hard that the labourer should be required to hand over the results to some one else who has not the ability or the industry to perform the work himself, and to allow him to reap all the credit that may be attached to the publication

of a new specific name. Surely Mr. Andrews is expecting Mr. Grote to do a little too much when he allows him to perform all this labour in identifying a particular species of *Sesia*, and then proposes that some one else should publish the results!

After all, it seems to us a very great misfortune that so much importance—so much glory, in fact—is supposed to be acquired by a naturalist by the mere giving a new name to an insect, and the appending of his own to it. Were this kind of renown less sought after—were there more generally diffused amongst us a humble desire to benefit science and increase the sum of human knowledge—we should not be oppressed with such a burden of synonyms as Entomology now groans under—infinite labour would be spared to the conscientious student,—dire confusion and distraction would not so often await the efforts of the painstaking observer.

ECONOMICAL ENTOMOLOGY.

BY PROFESSOR BELL, OF BELLEVILLE.

It is distinctly within my knowledge that many persons who are not overburdened with too large a share of worldly wealth, are strongly inclined to make the study of Entomology and the collecting of insect specimens an employment for their leisure hours, were it not for fear of the expense they believe it necessary to incur for cabinet, cork, pins, &c. Now, the cabinet and cork may be dispensed with—in fact, I have neither the one nor the other myself. I keep my collection in boxes, nineteen by twenty-four inches, outside size, of three-fourth inch pine board planed down to about five-eighth inch, by two and a quarter inches deep; the backs are made of clean basswood planed smooth, and half an inch thick, nailed on to the sides. On the upper edge of the two sides and on one end I fix a slip of thin pine, so as to leave eighteen and an eighth inches clear between the edges, and about one eighth for a groove at the bottom. Over each of these I nail firmly a slip of pine a quarter of an inch thick and a little wider than the thickness of the sides, so as to project over the inside slightly. This forms a groove for a light or glass eighteen by twenty-four inches to slide in, and the groove at the bottom receives the lower edge. The top is left open and the upper edge of the