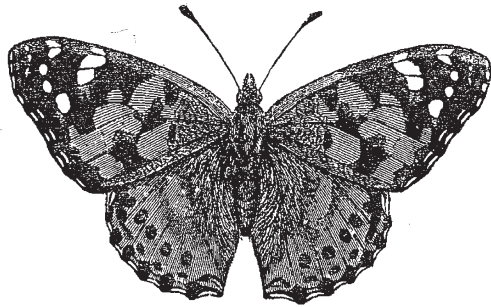
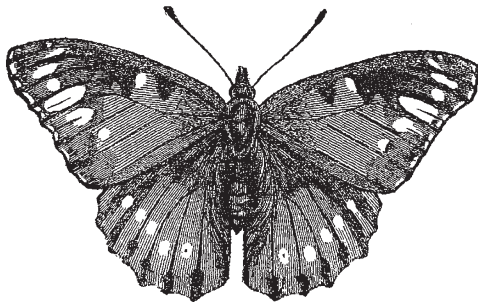


ance is pleasing and often beautiful, their characters are generally very clear and distinct, so that the discrimination of the species is by no means difficult, and their



PAINTED LADY (*Pyrameis Cardui*).



Painted Lady. Var. 1.

Natural History is easily studied; whilst the small number of the species renders it an easy matter for the beginner to procure in a season or two by far the greater proportion of the known forms.

Although there are already many books treating specially of the British butterflies, some of them expensive, and others so cheap as to come within the reach of every one, we cannot blame Mr. Newman for adding one more to the number, especially as his work is distinguished by the great prominence given in it to the Natural History of the species. Upon this subject, as also upon the distribution of the species in Britain, Mr. Newman has long been publishing details from his own observations and those of other naturalists, in his periodicals the "Zoologist" and "Entomologist;" and the whole of the information thus accumulated is here summarised and supplemented with observations derived from other sources. Another useful feature in the present work is the insertion of notices, and frequently of figures of the more important varieties of each species, which will often relieve the young student from a state of puzzled suspense in the determination of his specimens. The classification adopted is founded, in its broad outlines, upon the preparatory results of the insects, but it leads pretty nearly to the same results as the system more generally followed.

The illustrations are very numerous, including figures of all the species and of both sexes when there is any difference either in the upper or lower surface. They are all woodcuts, and are generally well executed, as may be seen from the examples which we are enabled to give.

W. S. DALLAS

OUR BOOK SHELF

The Western Chronicle of Science. Edited by J. H. Collins, F.G.S., Secretary to the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society. January to June, 1871. (Falmouth, Pp. 96.)

WE are glad to afford space for a short notice of this cheap scientific journal, which, although specially intended for the benefit of the mining population of Cornwall and West Devon, deserves a wide circulation in all our mining districts. Each monthly number contains one or two original articles, either on general subjects, as "The Practical Value of Scientific Knowledge," or giving descriptions of various forms of machinery, followed by notices of books, and a monthly chronicle of science. From one of the editorial articles on "The Practical Value of Scientific Knowledge," we learn that a good stoker may effect an annual saving of nearly 35*l.* per annum over a bad one, and that it is a common Cornish habit to hang heavy jackets, great coats, &c., on the lever of the safety valve of engines devoid of a pressure gauge; while the farmers, with the view of giving their ground two good things at once, mix lime with their guano some days before spreading the manure. A very remarkable natural-history statement is made by Mr. Williams, of Hayle, in his paper on "Scientific Nursing." "I have (he says) in my possession a double chick, the produce of an egg laid by a barn-door fowl, one half being the natural species, the other half composed of the sparrow-hawk!" Until this remarkable chick appears *in propria persona* at the office of NATURE, or, at all events sends us its photograph, we must, with much regret, decline to accept the fact.

Medizinische Jahrbücher. Herausgegeben von der K. K. Gesellschaft der Aerzte, redigirt von S. Stricker. Jahrgang, 1871, Heft I. und II. Mit 26 Holzschnitten und 2 lithographirten Tafeln. (Vienna: Braumüller; London: Williams and Norgate, 1871.)

THE two parts before us are the continuation, in a new form, of an old and valuable periodical, and, under Prof. Stricker's able editorship, its tendency, instead of being, as heretofore, chiefly clinical, will be so far modified as to embrace all the results obtained in the physiological laboratory. A glance at the table of contents is sufficient to prove the truth of this statement. Thus putting aside the first paper by Prof. Stricker, entitled "Pathology and Clinical Observation;" the rest, nine in number, are nearly all devoted to the results of microscopic research. Thus, Dr. Genersich contributes a paper on the Serous Canals of the Cornea; Dr. Heiberg one on the Regeneration of the Corneal Epithelium; Dr. Güterbock one on Inflammation of Tendons; Dr. G. F. Yeo one on the Structure of Inflamed Lymphatic Glands; Dr. Lang one on the First Stages of Inflammation in Bone; Dr. Albert and Dr. Stricker one on Surgical Fever, and the latter author another on the nature of the Poison of Pus, and so on. The journal leads off with a good start, and if it continues as it has commenced, will probably take up a leading position. We notice one or two of the papers that appear to be of general interest. H. P.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his Correspondents. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

Cotteau's "Echinides de la Sarthe"

A NOTICE of Cotteau et Triger's *Echinides de la Sarthe* in a recent number of NATURE (June 15, p. 120) is likely to convey a false impression of the accuracy of M. Cotteau, and throws considerable doubt on the value of his work. It is not often that French scientific men are as conscientious as he is in the examination of authentic types. There is hardly a collection of fossil Echini which M. Cotteau has not examined; and his