

# BUTTERFLIES OF CALIFORNIA

By DR. JOHN A. COMSTOCK

Continued from January-February Issue

## THE WHITES AND ALLIES

Family PIERIDÆ

Genus PIERIS

**The Common White.** *Pieris protodice*, Bdv. and Le Conte, (plate VII, figure 14, 15, 16, 17) is our most abundant Pierid with the single exception of *rapae*. It is found throughout the entire state. In flight it is more vigorous than the cabbage butterfly. The early spring brood, emerging from overwintering pupae, is more distinctly marked, with a greenish penciling on the under surfaces, and, in the female, a reduction and intensification of the markings on the upper surfaces.

This variety has been given the name of **Vernalis**. (Plate VIII, figures 2, 3, and 6.) *Protidice* is a species of some economic importance as its larvae feed on cabbage and nasturtium. More commonly it may be taken on mustards.

This species, in common with most butterflies is variable in size, and dwarfs or giants are not uncommon. Two of these interesting dwarfs of *P. protodice* are shown on Plate VIII, figure 1 and 4. They probably are the result of semi-starvation of the larvae.

**The Western White.** *Pieris occidentalis*, Reak. (Plate VIII, figures 5, 7, and 10) represents a western, high altitude race of the former species which is occasionally taken in our mountains. It is distinguished from *protodice* principally by the heavier and more greenish markings on the under side of secondaries. This form also has an early spring race, characterized by its smaller size and intensification of the dark markings, which has been named **calyce**. (Plate VIII, figures 8, 9, 11.) The larvae feed on various species of mustards.



### LILIUM PARRYI var. *Kessleri*, n. var.

A. DAVIDSON, M. D.

The shape of the bulb, character of the scales, the general habit and color of the flowers are the same as in the type but the leaves are large, ovate-lanceolate, 12 to 15 cm. long and 4 cm. wide, sessile with a narrow base, thin in texture, semitransparent on drying and glistening on lower surface; leaves below in whorls of 6, fewer and less definitely whorled above; anthers brown, 5-7 mm. long; pistil much longer than the anthers.

Type No. 3586. Collected by Robert Kessler at the upper end of Little Rock Creek, San Gabriel Mts., Sept., 1923.

This is the common form of the San Gabriel Range and grows very abundantly in the type locality and on Soldiers Creek in the same district. The marked difference in the shape and quality of the foliage, the coarser quality of the flowers, the smaller anthers and protruding pistil almost warrant giving it specific rank.