THE BUTTERFLY TREES

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The Butterfly Trees by Lucia Shepardson

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Photo by A. C. Warner
THE ROAD TO THE BUTTERFLY TREES

The Butterfly Trees

For several reasons is the Monterey peninsula famed among the folk who have come to California for a time and returned to their own land. There is beauty of scenery, there is evenness of climate, to charm the wayfarer and cause him to remember. And more of the vanishing Spanish element may yet be found in old Monterey, with its adobes and its legends, than anywhere else the length of the long State. But for a fourth good reason, and the one least known, does it stand alone of the places of the Pacific coast. To it each autumn comes a pilgrimage, the members of which number tens of thousands of pilgrims, drawn hither to seek shelter from the cold and the frost of winter, which to them would mean death. They are not men, they are not beasts, nor are they birds, these travellers of long distances. They are butterflies.

It is one of the most interesting things to be seen the world over, this vast annual gathering of these fragile creatures. Indeed, it is almost an incredible thing, unless one has with one's own eyes beheld it. It is not only this vicinity to which they come, but one especial group of

What instinct brings them here, year after year, the descendants each season of those who came the previous fall, no man, not even the wisest of the scientists, can say. About three miles from the historic town which was the first capital of California, upon the southermost corner of that blue crescent so often likened to Naples, lies another town, called Pacific Grove, the second half of the name derived from the splendid forests of Pinus Insignis which cover the entire peninsula. There is a lighthouse out beyond the village, and the road to it is lined on either side with unusually beautiful pines. It is upon a certain group of