

special training. Any one can take it up and follow it with a pleasure that rapidly becomes absorbing. Especially to dwellers in the country, or to those who spend some weeks in summer in the country, is this to be commended. And to any one who needs a hobby, the collecting of butterflies and breeding them from the egg, will give the physical and mental exercise they seek. A few days ago, a wealthy man, retired from business, in one of our cities, driven to despair from mere inaction, shot himself, in the fear that he would go mad. And one of the daily papers improved the occasion to preach the importance of hobbies, whether it be the raising of cabbages, or collecting pictures or china, or the study of archæology or of natural history. A man mounted on his hobby "does not suffer from vain regrets of his past career. He has found something more absorbing, more elevating, more pleasing. His hobby suffices him, gives him an interest in life, and prevents his nerves from preying on his health." I knew of a lawyer who at sixty was ordered by his physician to find some employment out of doors which would occupy his time and thoughts, unless he wished to be speedily gathered to his fathers; and he conceived the idea of making a collection of limestone fossils, as they were abundant in the region in which he lived, though hitherto he had known nothing of fossils or of natural history. And this he followed with delight for years, chiselling out the beautiful fossils as laboriously and skillfully as if stone-cutting had been his trade, studying them and arranging them in cabinet. He lived twenty happy years after that change of base, and left a collection which is famous for its magnitude and value. And, on the other hand, we have all known men who in the prime of their mental and physical strength have retired from active business, and have died from sheer vacuity of mind, after twiddling their thumbs in an arm-chair a few years, who might have reached four score if they had some hobby to ride. So I commend butterflies to elderly gentlemen or retired gentlemen in need of an occupation. The young need no recommendation. It is always enough to show them the way in any branch of natural history, and they follow it with ever increasing enthusiasm. Studies of this description keep young people out of mischief and old people out of the grave, and that is one good reason for cultivating natural history.

And now to our subject. Most female butterflies lay eggs readily in confinement, if shut up with their natural food plant. What that is cannot always be known, but it is well to try plants which allied species feed on. In most cases allied species feed on the same group of plants. Thus