

ovaries at once, but slowly and by degrees, and so are deposited in succession over a considerable period of time.

In an article in the CAN. ENT. (xiii., 205-214) on this subject, Mr. W. H. Edwards has laboured to show that eggs are almost invariably laid by butterflies fresh from the chrysalis, and that the butterfly dies soon after the laying of the eggs. This proves quite too much, for if it were so, a butterfly would hardly fly more than a week. That eggs are often laid by butterflies soon after eclosion from the chrysalis is doubtless true, but there are quite as many cases where egg laying is delayed for a considerable length of time,—two, three or four weeks; an examination of the ovaries of butterflies will show that it is rarely the case that all the eggs are laid even within two or three days of each other, but that they mature by degrees too slowly for such rapid oviposition. There are of course some, in which the eggs are laid in masses, when a greater number are laid in a single day, but the cases are far more numerous when egg laying is continued over many days, and sometimes probably over several weeks.

It is possible that the duration of the life of butterflies is greater in the north than in the south. As one approaches the tropics, insectivorous birds and other creatures are far more destructive of butterfly life than with us, and the chance of long life upon the wing must be greatly lessened with the numerous liabilities to disaster which overtake the poor butterfly in the warmer regions. There may even be a difference in this respect between districts so near each other as West Virginia and New England. For certainly my own experience of the overlapping of broods of different butterflies as seen by me in New England is very different from that reported by Mr. Edwards in West Virginia, and inasmuch as these broods follow each other with greater rapidity in Virginia than with us, the difference is thereby exaggerated.

To judge from the statistics that I have collected from observations made in the field both by myself and numerous correspondents, I am inclined to think that, in the case of those butterflies which are born and die the same season, the average length of life of the mass of them, that is, omitting mention of those which, cut off early, come to an untimely end, to be not far from four or five weeks, varying in different species from three to six or seven. Of course it is impossible to arrive at any very accurate determination regarding this, since in the case of any particular species we are obliged to base our conclusions on observations of