

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## ON THE SCARCITY OF PAPILIONIDÆ.

DEAR SIR,—

I have seen very few *Papilionidæ* of any species this season up to date, except *ajax*, which has been abundant as ever. But of *turnus*, usually exceedingly plenty in spring, I have seen scarcely half a dozen examples. No *trivius* and few *philenor*. So *Colias philodice* and all Pierids have been remarkable for their absence. But butterflies from hibernating larvæ, or hibernating imagos, in contrast with those from hibernating chrysalids, have been abundant — Melitæas, Argynids, Vanessans and Satyrids. On 2nd June, 1877, I rode for several miles along a creek not far from where I live, and *Papilios* swarmed. Passing a flat rock by the side of the creek, a space on it, which I computed as not less than four feet square, was studded with *Papilios* as thick as they could stand. When they rose it was like a cloud. Nine-tenths of these were *turnus*. Allowing one square inch to each butterfly, and this is ample, there were upwards of 2,300 butterflies in that mass. And I passed lesser groups with every mile as I rode; so that the total absence of the species this year is remarkable. It would seem possible that the extreme mildness of last winter allowed of the existence or activity of enemies (insect probably) who sought out and destroyed the chrysalids, but why *ajax* should have escaped is beyond my conjecture.

W. H. EDWARDS.

Coalburgh, W. Va., 16th June, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—

Mr. Bates is quite right in saying *Doryphora* will eat *Solanum dulcamara* and *Datura stramonium*; they have preferred these to tomatoes in my garden. A friend found them eating *Hyoscyamus*. The present season seems exceedingly favorable to production of *Nematus* and other grubs destructive of the currants and gooseberries.

H. H. CROFTS, Toronto, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—

A single specimen of the rare Sphinx, *Lepisesia flavofasciata*, was taken here on Lilac blossoms, May 28th.

CHAS. FISH, Old Town, Maine.