Especially in Gastropoda," by Leonard W. Williams; "The Poison Glands of *Noturus* and *Schilbeodes*," by Hugh D. Reed; "The Structure of the Silk Glands of *Apanteles glomeratus* L.," by Robert Matheson and A. G. Ruggles, and "The Nest of the Kelp Fish," by Charles F. Holder. Mr. Reed states that all species of *Noturus* and *Schilbeodes* examined possess an axillary pore that is the opening of a poison gland, and, in addition, some species have poison glands about the dorsal and pectoral spines. Species with serrate spines have no spine glands. There are no special muscles controlling the glands and they are ruptured by the pressure of their contents. Under *Notes* F. T. L. shows that marked specific differences exist in the embryos of vertebrates.

The Museums Journal of Great Britain for August contains an account of the Dundee meeting of the Museums Association. The gathering was attended by the curators of twenty-nine museums, besides many associates, and the papers read were thoroughly practical; two papers dealt with the subject of "School Museums."

The American Museum Journal for October has for frontispiece an excellent plate of "The Warren Mastodon" and in the accompanying article will be found measurements of the skeleton, which has been admirably mounted; it stands 9 feet 2 inches high, much lower than the popular idea of the animal. There are articles on "A Blackfoot Lodge, or Tepee," "The Museum Whales," "A Diplodocus for the Frankfurt Museum" and "The Robley Collection of Maori Heads." This collection, which is practically unique, comprises thirty-five specimens; it will be described in detail later. The museum has recently acquired two examples of the rare *Solenodon paradoxus* from Haiti and a sea otter from Point Lobos, Cal.

The Zoological Society Bulletin for August, which escaped notice at the time of its issue, during the meeting of the International Zoological Congress, is devoted to the subject of Zoology in New York. It contains articles on the universities and other educational institutions, in whose curriculum zoology plays an important part; the museums of natural history, biological laboratories, zoological parks and aquarium. There are brief accounts of the scientific societies of Greater New York and a list of the zoologists of New York and vicinity, which includes about one hundred names.

The Museum News, of the Brooklyn Institute, for October, contains a good account of the "Home of the Guacharo," *Steatornis*, describing a visit to a cave in Trinidad, where a number of adults and young birds were obtained. It is noted that the weight of the excessively fat young is twice that of the old bird. The installation of a group of fishes about a coral reef is something of a novelty, being an attempt to give a glimpse of the life and color of tropical seas. The principal article in the section devoted to the Children's Museum describes the silkworm, which has been made the subject of a rather extensive exhibit.

THE publication is announced in December of a new international monthly, *Revue des études ethnographiques et sociologiques*, edited under the direction of M. Arnold von Gennep and published by Librairie Paul Geuthner.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AS TO HOLOTHURIA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE for August 7, Dr. Gill calls attention to the fact that the genus *Holothuria* as originally established by Linnæus contains no species of the group which since 1766 has been universally called "holothurians." In the *Zoologischer Anzeiger* for August 20, Dr. Poche makes the same announcement and goes on to show some of the resulting changes in nomenclature which will be necessary if we adhere to the International Code. Dr. Gill particularly wishes to know what Dr. W. K. Fisher and I propose to do about it. Dr. Fisher in SCIENCE for September 20 states his position: he elects to adhere to the code and accordingly abandons *Holothuria*. In this I am quite unable to follow him, although I find no reason to ques-

tion the facts regarding *Holothuria* Linnæus, 1758, as given by Gill and Poche. There is no question that the ignoring of these facts has placed us, who are specially interested in echinoderms, in a serious dilemma. Either we must refuse to follow the International Code or we must attempt, not only to substitute an unfamiliar name for the familiar *Holothuria,* and introduce a series of regrettable changes into the nomenclature of ascidians and echinoderms, but we must undertake to replace the colloquial English "holothurian" with some other term. Of these two evils it seems to me that the former is decidedly the lesser, and at the expense of consistency I propose to continue to call "sea-cucumbers," holothurians. Of course, if the International Commission on Nomenclature, in its proposed list of genera to be unchangeably adopted, assigns *Holothuria* to the ascidians rather than to the echinoderms, I shall not stand out against that decision, but meantime I shall sincerely hope that they will agree that an exception to the application of the code is wiser than a consistency which involves such difficult, one might almost say impossible, changes in nomenclature.

And I am confirmed in this attitude by certain facts either ignored or overlooked by Gill and Poche. Aldrovandus and other pre-Linnæan writers used *Holothuria* in the commonly accepted sense, as have all writers since 1766. Jäger in 1833 refers to the *twelfth* edition of the "Systema Naturæ" as the first in which true holothurians are included in the genus and he virtually bases his revision of the genus on that edition. Far more important than this, however, is the fact that if we assign *Holothuria* to the ascidians, it is by no means easy to decide what name shall replace it for sea-cucumbers. Fortunately for euphony's sake, it almost certainly will not be *Bohadschia,* as both Gill and Poche assert. A hasty survey of the literature between 1760 and 1830 shows that the case is quite involved. Mr. Austin H. Clark has called my attention to the fact that a very plausible argument may be made for *Holothusia* Barbut, 1783, Plate 6! Incidentally it should be remarked that there are many zoologists (Drs. Gill and Fisher among them) who will hold that *Holothuria* is properly a siphonophoran genus, and not ascidian, as Poche claims. Careful consideration of all the facts satisfies me that the attempt to radically change the usage of such familiar names as *Holothuria, Actinia* and *Salpa* can only make confusion worse confounded and, until an international congress of zoologists has voted that this shall be done, I for one shall continue to use the names in the commonly accepted sense.

Hubert Lyman Clark
Museum of Comparative Zoology,
Cambridge, Mass.,
September 28, 1907

Errors in Tower's "An Investigation of Evolution in Chrysomolid Beetles of the Genus Leptinotarsa"[1]

In reading over this work, I have noticed a few minor typographical errors and one rather more important biological misstatement or misconception in regard especially to one species of the group, all of which, however, do not affect the work as a whole. The biological misstatement or misconception is unfortunate, as it is founded on innumerable observations, and thus would tend to indicate carelessness in this respect on the part of the author. But I have no doubt that it was due rather to an oversight.

The typographical errors will be stated first:

Page 53,	¶ 2,	line 3,	*specimens* = *species.*
68,	3,	4,	*32* = *22.*
166,	2,	28,	*how* is repeated.
169,	3,	1, 3,	*histonic* = *historic.*
253,	2,	7,	*habitat* = *habit.*
294,	2,	3,	*ohers* = *others.*

In writing of the ontogeny of larval color patterns on page 147, Dr. Tower directly implies three larval instars to *Leptinotarsa signaticollis* Stål, and indirectly so to the species *diversa* Tower and *undecemlineata* Stål. On the next page, and those following, the same fact is implied in regard to the other species of the group, including the common *decem-*

[1] Publication No. 48, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1906.