an informal way for the purpose of collecting suggestions and information. If the movement seems to be of interest to those who are reached by this letter, a more formal organization can be perfected later and the congratulatory message can be issued by a representative committee.

The undersigned, acting as secretary for the preliminary informal committee, begs leave to request (1) suggestions with regard to the mode of procedure which would be most effective in presenting to Leipzig University the expression of congratulation from former American students; (2) information with regard to Americans in all departments who have received their degrees at Leipzig. The present list is complete for all names included in "American Men of Science"; it is otherwise very fragmentary and should be supplemented even at the risk of duplicating names from various sources.

It is requested that replies be sent at the earliest possible moment in order that the organization may be completed before January.

For the Committee,

CHARLES H. JUDD

YALE UNIVERSITY,
NEW HAVEN, CONN.,
December 2, 1908

## MALARIA IN THE WEST INDIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE for August 28, 1908, p. 273, a note taken from the London *Times* appears in which it is stated that "Malaria is very much less common in Barbados than in other West Indian islands" and that the small fish known as "millions" (*Girardinus pœciloides*) "destroys large numbers of the larvæ of mosquitos that spread malaria."

These are the usual newspaper statements regarding the habits of these very interesting little fish, and they have frequently appeared recently in different papers. They are, however, not quite correct, in that the malaria-bearing mosquito (*Anopheles*) does not occur in Barbados and it is generally believed that no case of malaria has ever originated in this island.

"Millions" eat the larvæ of mosquitos and many forms of aquatic animal life. The permanent pools and small streams which would be the natural breeding places of the *Anopheles* mosquito are inhabited by "millions." Other mosquitos are able to maintain themselves in Barbados because they naturally breed in water which is not inhabited by "millions," but there is a possibility that the absence of *Anopheles* in this island may be due, wholly or in part to the presence of enormous numbers of these small fish.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture has introduced "millions" into Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Jamaica and they have been taken to British Guiana and Colon. "Millions" are among the most active natural enemies of mosquitos and in any malarial country where they become established they will be almost certain to exert a very considerable effect on the prevalence of the malarial mosquitos, because they naturally inhabit the breeding places of *Anopheles*. In any locality where it is possible to establish "millions" in rain-water tanks, reservoirs, fountains, etc., much relief may be had from the mosquito nuisance.

The "millions" of Barbados are closely related to the top-minnows found in different parts of the United States, certain species of which are well known as natural enemies of mosquitos. Top-minnows from Texas have been introduced into the Hawaiian Islands, and similar fish have frequently been used in stocking streams and ponds for the purpose of reducing the numbers of mosquitos in certain localities.

H. A. BALLON

IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOR THE WEST INDIES

## THE ODONATA OF MEXICO

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In my article on "The Present State of our Knowledge of the Odonata of Mexico and Central America," published in SCIENCE for November 13, 1908, I have unintentionally omitted the Ohio State University from the list of cooperating in-

stitutions on page 692. Regretting the oversight, this note is offered in correction.

Philip P. Calvert

## QUOTATIONS

### CLERICAL HEALING

The announcement made a few weeks ago by the rector of an Episcopal church in this city, that he was going to take up the practise of medicine as a part of his clerical work, calls renewed attention to this curious movement. While it was confined to the Emmanuel Church people in Boston it was generally regarded as a sort of Neo-Eddyism, one more of the many queer fads with which the citizens of that town are wont to amuse themselves, and little more was thought of it. Now, however, two at least of the Episcopal churches in New York are going to adopt the Emmanuel plan of treating disease, and doubtless some of the rectors of other churches in that denomination will be ready to join the ranks of irregular practitioners. It is time therefore to ask what the movement means, and why physicians, even trained neurologists, are to be found lending themselves to the movement and supporting it by voice and pen.

The first question raised by a perusal of the official book of the Emmanuel movement, is, why? Why clerical healing, and why the limitation of clerical healing to functional diseases? We do not find either question answered satisfactorily in this book and we do not see how they can be answered. If the physician is to entrust the care of his patients to the clergymen why not to the lawyer? The latter is as much the confidant of his clients as the minister of his parishioners, and could speak just as authoritatively to the subliminal self of the sick. But the physician ought to be able to speak with much greater effect. When he can not, the explanation must be found in that curious state of mind which leads the ignorant to trust the confident amateur rather than the professional, to pin greater faith to quack remedies or grandmother's simples than to the prescription of the physician. The skilful physician despises no remedy which may benefit his patient, and if he believes a word from a sincere and tactful minister of the gospel will help, he is glad to send, and often does send, the sick man to the clergyman. As physicians we should regret indeed to lose the powerful therapeutic force that resides in religion, but it does not follow from this that we are ready to welcome the priest as a fellow practitioner of medicine, or even to acknowledge that he can exercise that function in the public and wholesale way of the Emmanuel rectors without the danger of doing far more harm than good.—*Medical Record.*

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Traité de Géologie: I. Les Phénomènes géologiques.* By Mons. Emile Haug, Professeur a la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université de Paris. Pp. 536. Libraire Armand Colin, 5 rue de Mézières, Paris, France. 1907. Price, 12 fr. 50.

Though primarily intended for the use of French students, Mons. Haug's excellent volume, recently published, is worthy of study by American geologists. A text-book or treatise dealing with the whole subject of geology should be a sort of clearing-house wherein is struck the true balance of competing ideas, suggestions and hypotheses, so far as that is possible in the progressive science. Only the first part of this newest treatise, that relating to the geological processes, has been issued, but it is fair to suppose that the author's conception of the principles of geology is rather fully presented. At the very first one is struck with the compactness of thought and expression throughout the work; Mons. Haug is to be congratulated on his success in preserving a very readable style while packing into his chapters a truly remarkable amount of fundamental material. The author has not followed the beaten track and the pages are full of valuable new thoughts.

The work is unusual in its order of treatment. The complex is considered before the relatively simple; geosynclinals, metamorphism, orogeny, epeirogeny and igneous intrusion are discussed before underground water, weathering, and river, glacial and