THE CIVILIZATION OF BOHEMIA

WITH reference to Dr. Hrdlička's article in SCIENCE of December 17, p. 880, it may be of interest to note the prominence of Bohemia in zoological research. In gathering material for the "Directory of Zoologists," I have obtained biographical data from fourteen prominent zoologists resident in Prag, namely, Babák, Počta, v. Lendenfeld, Stölc, Klapálek, Perner, Rádl, Babor, Frič, Vejdovsky, Němec, Srdinko, Steinach, Völker. Any zoologist looking at this list will recognize familiar names. Prag in 1900 had a population of 204,498. There are many cities in America which could not make nearly so good a showing; for example, New Orleans, with a population of 287,104; or Los Angeles and Denver combined, with a population between them of 236,338.

T. D. A. COCKERELL

ENGINEERING STUDENT STATISTICS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: President Howe, of the Case School of Applied Science, has called my attention to an error which in some strange way crept into the table of engineering student statistics that was published in the issue of SCIENCE for June 4, 1909. In the table the number of students is given as 479 in 1907–8 and 431 in 1908–9. The catalogues show that the number of students for 1907–8 was 440 and for 1908–9 445, thus showing a slight gain instead of a loss of 10 per cent.

A reference to the reports of the president of Cornell University proves that the statement made by me in the issue of December 24, 1909, to the effect that at Cornell the number of undergraduate women in the academic department is probably larger than that of the men is not borne out by the facts of the case. On page 18 of the president's report for 1908–9 the following statement appears: "This increase in attendance in the College of Arts and Sciences has taken place in spite of a slight decline in the number of women enrolling in that college. In 1907–8 there were 313 women and 507 men, in 1908–9 there were 309 women and 593 men." No distinction is made between men and women in the figures furnished for the table included in the number of SCIENCE to which reference has been made.

RUDOLF TOMBO, JR.

THE STRICT APPLICATION OF THE LAW OF PRIORITY TO GENERIC NAMES

MR. FRANK SPRINGER, on the first of May last, distributed to one thousand zoologists and paleontologists a circular bearing upon the question of the rigid application of the so-called "law of priority" in zoological (and paleontological) nomenclature. The generic name *Encrinus,* the best known and supposedly the most firmly established of all of the generic names of the Crinoidea—the name of the typical crinoid genus of all authors, both of learned systematic works and of general treatises and text-books, for over one hundred years—was shown to be untenable as previously understood, having been earlier employed (a use long since forgotten) for other and widely different genera, this application of necessity, if section 30 of the international code were rigidly followed, causing the preoccupation of other generic names equally well established. The case was still further complicated by the intricate technical problems in regard to the earlier usage of the name *Encrinus,* and the great zoological difficulties in the way of a positive identification of the earlier genotypes, altogether causing such confusion that the most expert taxonomists differ widely in their interpretation of the facts.

The circulars were distributed by the undersigned, except those destined for Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Germany; Dr. Th. Mortensen very kindly undertook the task of sending them to the naturalists in these countries, and for his courtesy in thus assisting us we take this opportunity of offering him our most sincere thanks.

A post card was enclosed with each circular, the recipient being requested to return it with the information whether, in his judgment, it would be better to retain the name *Encrinus in statu quo ante* (with the genotype *E. liliiformis* Lamarck) or to follow strictly the dictates of the code and overturn the heretofore universally accepted nomenclature of a large