

and America, a remarkable distribution for a species of this genus.

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THE USE OF A TOOL BY A SPHECID WASP

THE use of tools by sphecid wasps was first witnessed by the Peckhams and has since been reported by at least seven observers.¹ We wish to contribute one more record of this extraordinary behavior.

During the summer of 1922 we were collecting in open post oak woods near Bonham in northeastern Texas. Our attention, focused on a decaying stump, was suddenly distracted by a loud buzzing behind us. We turned to see a sphecid finishing her burrow by tamping down the filling with a pebble. The performance was not, however, being done according to Peckham. Our wasp pointed her abdomen directly upward and pounded with the tool held between her mandibles by moving her entire body up and down, thereby simulating a pile-driver rather than a hammer. As soon as she had finished we captured her. During the mêlée the pebble was lost; but it must have been about five millimeters in diameter, for the mandibles were spread to the limit while holding it. The burrow was then examined; the tamped filling was quite compact and remained intact when the surrounding soil was dug away. At the bottom of the burrow two inches below the surface there was a paralyzed caterpillar. The wasp was later determined by Mr. S. A. Rohwer as *Sphex* (= *Ammophila*) *gryphus* (Sm.).

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THE ADDRESSES OF AUTHORS

BECAUSE of the shortage of publication facilities, or perhaps more correctly, the increasing demand for publication facilities, there is a marked tendency at the present time toward brevity in the presentation of scientific matter in our professional journals. This is not wholly a bad tendency; in fact, many will strongly support the opposite contention, but at the same time the free exchange of ideas among scientific workers is the principal object sought in publication, and the restriction of this exchange is undoubtedly an obstacle to progress, even though it may be a necessity under present conditions. The liberal allotment of time for discussion of papers on our scientific programs is a recognition of the fact that much is to be

¹ See Wheeler, W. M.: "Social Life among the Insects," page 55.

learned from the author of a paper in addition to the material he has presented for publication.

The majority of papers published are not, however, presented before a scientific meeting but are sent direct to the editor by the author, and there is therefore no opportunity for discussion. The mails are available to fill this need, which leads me to the point I wish to make: Would it not be useful to scientific men if our professional journals were to publish in every case the addresses of their contributors along with their papers? I frequently have occasion to write to entomologists publishing in foreign journals, but am often unable to secure their addresses without first writing to the editor or to some leading foreign entomologist who may have their addresses. This is particularly true in case of the younger men who are not so well known. I am aware that addresses are often, perhaps generally, published, but my observation has been that this is done when the author has submitted it along with his paper and is not done if the author omits it. It has seemed to me that the adoption of a policy on the part of our editors of always publishing authors' addresses, or the name of the institution with which they are connected, would serve to make the desired free exchange of ideas more easily accomplished.

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A CORRECTION

I NOTE upon page 444 of the May 16 issue of SCIENCE abstract of a paper submitted by me at the recent meeting of the National Academy of Sciences and entitled "Researches in the terephthalic acid group."

Through an unfortunate error, the name of my collaborator in this research, Dr. Philip S. Nisson, was in some way omitted in entering the item on the program of the academy, and I shall be glad to have you publish this brief note in SCIENCE calling attention to the fact.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The New Geology: A Text-book for Colleges, Normal Schools and Training Schools; and for the General Reader. By GEORGE MCCREADY PRICE. Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California.

THIS good-looking book, embellished with excellent illustrations (of which more later), gives a first impression of actually being an orthodox and high-grade text-book of geology. A careful perusal of the work, however, leads to the conviction that the author, who is unknown to the membership list of the Geolog-