We would like to express our apologies to these distinguished investigators.

J. C. DRUMMOND
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON
T. P. HILDITCH
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

INSCRIPTIONS FOR A SCIENTIFIC BUILDING

URSINUS COLLEGE is erecting a new building for instruction and research in the sciences. It will be a rather imposing structure for a small college. On the face of the building at either side above the front entrance inscriptions are to be cut. The space permits each text to consist of about seventy letters. They might be quotations or original compositions.

I am seeking suitable inscriptions and shall be under obligations to any reader of SCIENCE who may be willing to send suggestions.

GEORGE L. OMWAKE,
President
URSINUS COLLEGE,
COLLEGEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

A History of Entomology. By E. O. ESSIG. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1931. 1,029 pp., $10.00.

DESPITE its inclusive title, this work treats primarily of the history and development of applied entomology in California. It is replete with valuable and interesting information on this and related subjects.

Should one insist on the definition of history as "a narrative of events," then some of the contents of the work could not qualify in that category. Nevertheless, the evidence of intelligence in the choice of material, the conscientious accuracy and completeness of the data included, and the evident effort of the author to render the work of the utmost use to the reader, all evoke his admiration and respect.

In perusing these pages, one is certain to be deeply impressed, too, with the early and leading part taken by the people of California in the advancement of applied entomology and its concomitant activities in America. Settled as it was, after the hegira of 1849, by a virile race of hardy pioneers, California's specialized forms of agriculture, which almost from the first have produced crops of high intrinsic value, together with the great wealth produced by the swift development of her mineral resources, soon gave her a surplus of vigor and power which account in large part for the courageous manner in which she has attacked not only her entomological problems but her civic and social emergencies as well. Thus she was the first of all the states (Howard[1]) to protect herself (in 1880) by legislation and quarantine against the introduction of new insect pests. And this is but one illustration of her forward-looking and aggressive spirit. Her leadership among the states, in the investigation of fumigants and chemicals for the destruction of insect foes, and her early successful adoption of biological methods of insect control, all evince the same qualities of vitality and courage as were exhibited so marvelously after the great earthquake and fire of 1906.

If, as seems possible, it be true that several serious insect pests such as the cottony-cushion scale, San José scale, black scale, etc., gained entrance to America through the activities of the early horticulturists of California, the world will learn through these recent expositions of entomological history that she has atoned nobly for such unintentional lapses by her innumerable valuable contributions to the control of these and of other insect pests for which she has been in no way responsible.

The opening chapter of the present work treats very briefly of the paleoentomology of California, while the second chapter is devoted to an entomology of the Californian Indians. This occupies some thirty-six pages and is of general interest but has a marked ethnologic flavor. After a few pages giving the general historical background, the origin and present status of the Californian institutions pertaining to entomology are related in which discussion the universities and colleges are given individual attention. Then follows a section comprising 192 pages, discussing the history of "The More Important Orchard Mites and Insects of California." With one exception (that pertaining to biography), this chapter is the longest in the book and is considerably more comprehensive than is indicated by its title. For instance, it includes important pests of forage crops, ornamentals, vegetables and even insects affecting health such as the fleas and some mosquitoes. A circumstantial account of the history of sericulture in California and a brief discussion of apiculture in the state conclude the chapter.

The matter is arranged ordinally, beginning with the Acarina, without regard to chronological sequence. A brief history of each species is given together with its common and scientific names. This often includes the formulae used in control, and numerous refer-

[1] L. O. Howard, "A History of Applied Entomology," Smithsonian Inst., Nov. 29, 1930.