dealing simply with a differential growth rate or death rate for the two sexes.

Among oysters over 40 mm in length, and growing singly, that is, not in the near neighborhood of other oysters, there were 34 ♂ to 131 ♀. Among oysters of length similar to the above, which, however, were growing in compact clusters of two or more individuals, so that the valve margins of the associated oysters were less than 40 mm apart, there were 85 ♂ to 82 ♀. Among oysters of this same length, growing in clusters, but whose valve margins were separated from those of their neighbors by 40 mm or more, there were 27 ♂ to 46 ♀. The clusters of closely associated individuals were almost always composed of oysters of dissimilar sex. Thus, the close association of large oysters seems to cause some members of the group to be male, while individuals of this same size, if growing singly, are almost all females. The figures given above dealing with clusters of less closely associated individuals indicate that the likelihood of large oysters being male decreases rapidly with increasing distance from associates.

Small oysters, no matter what their position relationships to other oysters, are almost always males.

Nine morphologically hermaphroditic individuals, irregularly placed as to size- and position-relationships, were found, an incidence of about 1 per cent.

The experimental control of the sex of oysters has been accidentally accomplished on a large scale in Louisiana, in the following manner:

Oysters growing in natural clusters are usually more than half of them males. The oyster planters of the state often break up these clusters and re-bed the individuals singly to grow for market. When these single, bedded oysters, presumably over half of them males at the time of replanting, are taken up during the next year's spawning season, almost every one is found to be a female.

A more detailed description and discussion of the data obtained is in preparation.

M. D. BURKENROAD
LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, IN COOPERATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, TULANE UNIVERSITY

CORRECTION ON PSYLLID-YELLOWS

IN the issue of SCIENCE for December 20, 1929 (lxx, 1825), on page 615, there was an article published on "Transmission Studies with the New Psyllid-yellows Disease of Solanaceous Plants." This disease was previously described by Dr. B. L. Richards, of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, who first associated the Psyllid insect with the trouble on potatoes. The report on the damage to the early potato crop, and the description of the symptoms on potatoes was likewise made by the same investigator. The work reported on in the article was based on Dr. Richards's first description and association of the insect with the disease.

In order to clear the confusion that exists on the original association of the Psyllid with the disease, this explanation is deemed highly necessary.

A. M. BINKLEY
COLORADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Plant Life through the Ages. A Geological and Botanical Retrospect. By A. C. SEWARD. 601 pp. 140 figs. including 9 reconstructions of ancient landscapes drawn by Edward Vulliamy. Macmillan Co., New York, 1931.

THIS book is written for the layman as well as for the student of botany and geology, and in the words of the author is designed "to illustrate the nature of the documents from which geologists have compiled a history of the earth, or at least such scraps of history as can be written from the material that is available: to give some account of the methods employed in the interpretation of the documents: and to present in language that is not unnecessarily technical a summary of the more interesting results obtained from the records of the rocks which throw light on the development of the plant world."

It is charmingly written and has a distinct literary flavor, and will undoubtedly enable many to obtain a comprehensive view of a wholly unsuspected past of the plant world. The special student will find it equally useful because very little that has been contributed to this and cognate sciences in late years has escaped the author's intellectual curiosity, as is attested by the very useful bibliography.

The general plan leads the reader from an introductory consideration of the elementary facts of historical geology, the manner of preservation of fossil plants, and the classification of plants, through a brief discussion of pre-Cambrian life and that of the earlier Paleozoic (Cambrian, Ordovician and Silurian periods), to a more detailed account of the earliest fairly well-known land plants of the Devonian. The later Paleozoic, appropriately enough since the floras in their variety and our knowledge of them is so much more complete, has three chapters devoted to its consideration. There follow chapters devoted to the Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Tertiary and Quater-