

arrived for the extensive collection of ants for the manufacture of formic acid or of their pupae as food for song birds, and we feel sure that they could hardly have anticipated an industry which has recently sprung up both in France and Pennsylvania, and which consists of the farming of spiders for the purpose of stocking wine cellars, and thus securing an almost immediate coating of cobwebs to new wine bottles, giving them the appearance of great age. This industry is carried on in a little French village in the Department of Loire, and by an imported Frenchman named Grantaire on the Lancaster Pike, 4 miles from Philadelphia. This Frenchman raises *Epeira vulgaris* and *Nephila plumipes* in large quantities and sells them to wine merchants at the rate of \$10 per hundred.

Whoever inserted this note, however, may possibly have done it with his tongue in his cheek. The hoax, as reported in *Time*, mentions a spider named Sara Bernhardt and another named Emile Zola. The above note by omitting these and other details seems to have been pitched lower for its presumably less credulous entomological readers.

DONALD DE LEON

BERKELEY, CALIF.

BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS: A CORRECTION

THE chairman of the Periodicals Committee of the American Library Association has called our attention to an error in the statement appearing in last week's *SCIENCE*. The New York meeting referred to had only *representatives* of various groups present, and one of the constructive proposals made was covered by the first paragraph under "Financing Agreement." It is unfortunate that the statement reads that "it was agreed," when it should have been stated that "it was proposed," etc. The committee chairman writes as follows: "That not even our committee would have the right to agree that librarians would arrange a subsidy for *Biological Abstracts* from their institutions," but that "the chairman of the American Library Association Committee on Periodicals is very eager to come out in support of *Biological Abstracts* if the principle can be established that it is the duty first of the biological organizations and biologists to support financially their own abstracting journals."

THE COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS
FOR BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

QUOTATIONS

THE PILGRIM TRUST LECTURES

AN informal discussion between the officers of the society and an officer of the National Academy of Washington has led to a very happy result. It was proposed that in alternate years the society should invite and entertain a distinguished lecturer from the United States, and the academy should arrange the converse proceeding. The Pilgrim Trust was consulted on the question of providing the money required for the scheme, and most generously offered a sum of 1,500 guineas, which in the opinion of the trust should provide for suitable honoraria to be paid to the lecturers in six successive years. An exchange of communications between the academy and the society has resulted in the completion of the necessary arrangements, and the first Pilgrim Trust Lecture will, it is expected, be given in London in the coming summer.

Fellows will, I am sure, feel that no more agreeable way of emphasizing the cordial relations between American and British science could have been devised. Although modern communications are so rapid and complete and views spread so quickly, there is a personal character in the research of each man who breaks into a new field, and this interesting and important character can only be communicated by the man himself. In my opinion these lectures should not be mere summaries of past work, nor general discussions of scientific advance. It might be their special

feature that they should transfer from one side of the Atlantic to the other new ideas which had already begun to be fruitful and promised wide expansion in the future. Such lectures would associate workers in a common task, and encourage correspondence and the formation of friendships. The choice of lecturers would not be determined on the same plan as the choice for the awards of medals or other distinctions, but would rather bring into prominence the most important lines of advance of the day. The progress of science would be the object of the Pilgrim Trust Lecture, and not the honoring of scientists.

The provision of funds for six years is sufficient to make trial of the plan. If it is successful, as we may be sure it will be, we hope that means for its continuance will be forthcoming.

I am tempted to further hopes. It may be that the universal wish to promote peaceful relations between the nations of the world may find some who are willing to follow the example of the Pilgrim Trust. Of all the enterprises of mankind the acquisition of Natural Knowledge pays least attention to the divisions of men. We have national industries, national trade, national literature, national art, national characteristics, even national religion, but there is only one nature for us to know. One could wish that the seasonal interchange of men to show to other nations what new illumination was dawning in this or that subject of enquiry could be firmly established and honored by the emphatic