

is that the spelling is American. "Sulfur dioxide" looks strange in print. But teachers on this side of the Atlantic have much to learn from America in the way of presenting science informally, and they may be willing to overlook these minor points.

Manual of Vegetable-garden Insects. By Cyrus Richard Crosby and Mortimer Demarest Leonard. Pp. xv+391. (New York: The Macmillan Co.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1918.) Price 12s. 6d. net.

IN this "Rural Manual" the authors give clear and concise accounts of the insects which, in North America, may be regarded as pests on vegetables grown in gardens. Each chapter is, as a rule, assigned to a particular species or group of vegetables, but "cutworms" (Noctuid caterpillars), blister-beetles, and flea-beetles are treated respectively in three special chapters, while another chapter is devoted to "unclassified pests." Most of the insects described are distinctively American species, but some—such as the cabbage-fly (*Phorbia brassicae*)—are common in British and European gardens. It is interesting to notice that in several cases an American insect attacks a cultivated plant in a manner like that adopted by an allied insect in Europe with the same plant; for example, the caterpillars of *Hydroecia (Papaipema) nitela* and *H. cataphracta* bore potato-stems, as those of *H. micacea* and *H. ochracea* do in these countries, while the damage by the American potato flea-beetle (*Epitrix cucumeris*) to foliage is closely comparable with that of our *Psylliodes affinis*.

The authors give a useful concluding chapter on the structure of insects, with special reference to their modes of feeding, this subject naturally leading to a consideration of insecticides. The book is illustrated with a number of well-drawn figures supplemented by photographs somewhat unequal in execution.

G. H. C.

Fauna Brasiliense. Peixes. Archivos do Museu nacional do Rio de Janeiro, vol. xvii. (Rio de Janeiro: Papelaria Macedo, 1915.)

THE bulky volume under notice contains a monograph, illustrated with excellent photographic plates, of the physoclistous fishes of Brazil by Prof. A. de Miranda Ribeiro, brought out in parts from 1913 to 1915. It is well got up, but the contents will be difficult to quote, as there is no continuous pagination and the numerous plates are not numbered. The classification and nomenclature are in accordance with the views of modern American ichthyologists; it is, however, a matter for regret that no sort of synonymy, not even a reference to the original descriptions of the species, should have been given, as by this omission the value of the monograph is greatly impaired, correlation with standard works of older date being thus rendered extremely difficult.

It is well that attention should be directed to this work, as only a part of it has been quoted in the "Zoological Record," no mention of it, or of the new species therein described, having appeared in the Reports for 1914, 1915, or 1916.

NO. 2596, VOL. 103]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

Labour and Scientific Research.

ENCLOSED is a copy of a resolution which has just been unanimously adopted by the American Federation of Labour at its Atlantic City convention. I trust that you may consider this of sufficient interest to the readers of NATURE to warrant its publication.

P. G. AGNEW.

Scientific and Technical Branch, Federal Employees' Union, No. 2, National Federation of Federal Employees, Washington, D.C., June 28.

"Whereas scientific research and the technical application of results of research form a fundamental basis upon which the development of our industries, manufacturing, agriculture, mining, and others, must rest; and

"Whereas the productivity of industry is greatly increased by the technical application of the results of scientific research in physics, chemistry, biology, and geology, in engineering and agriculture, and in the related sciences; and the health and well-being not only of the workers, but of the whole population as well, are dependent upon advance in medicine and sanitation; so that the value of scientific advancement to the welfare of the nation is many times greater than the cost of the necessary research; and

"Whereas the increased productivity of industry resulting from scientific research is a most potent factor in the ever-increasing struggle of the workers to raise their standards of living, and the importance of this factor must steadily increase, since there is a limit beyond which the average standard of living of the whole population cannot progress by the usual methods of readjustment, which limit can only be raised by research and the utilisation of the results of research in industry; and

"Whereas there are numerous important and pressing problems of administration and regulation now faced by Federal, State, and local governments, the wise solution of which depends upon scientific and technical research; and

"Whereas the war has brought home to all the nations engaged in it the overwhelming importance of science and technology to national welfare, whether in war or in peace, and not only is private initiative attempting to organise far-reaching research in these fields on a national scale, but in several countries governmental participation and support of such undertakings are already active; therefore be it

"Resolved, by the American Federation of Labour in convention assembled, that a broad programme of scientific and technical research is of major importance to the national welfare, and should be fostered in every way by the Federal Government, and that the activities of the Government itself in such research should be adequately and generously supported in order that the work may be greatly strengthened and extended; and the secretary of the Federation is instructed to transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President *pro tempore* of the Senate, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives."