

an informal way for the purpose of collecting suggestions and information. If the movement seems to be of interest to those who are reached by this letter, a more formal organization can be perfected later and the congratulatory message can be issued by a representative committee.

The undersigned, acting as secretary for the preliminary informal committee, begs leave to request (1) suggestions with regard to the mode of procedure which would be most effective in presenting to Leipzig University the expression of congratulation from former American students; (2) information with regard to Americans in all departments who have received their degrees at Leipzig. The present list is complete for all names included in "American Men of Science"; it is otherwise very fragmentary and should be supplemented even at the risk of duplicating names from various sources.

It is requested that replies be sent at the earliest possible moment in order that the organization may be completed before January.

For the Committee,

CHARLES H. JUDD

YALE UNIVERSITY,  
NEW HAVEN, CONN.,  
December 2, 1908

#### MALARIA IN THE WEST INDIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE for August 28, 1908, p. 273, a note taken from the London *Times* appears in which it is stated that "Malaria is very much less common in Barbados than in other West Indian islands" and that the small fish known as "millions" (*Girardinus pæciloides*) "destroys large numbers of the larvæ of mosquitos that spread malaria."

These are the usual newspaper statements regarding the habits of these very interesting little fish, and they have frequently appeared recently in different papers. They are, however, not quite correct, in that the malaria-bearing mosquito (*Anopheles*) does not occur in Barbados and it is generally believed that no case of malaria has ever originated in this island.

"Millions" eat the larvæ of mosquitos and many forms of aquatic animal life. The permanent pools and small streams which would be the natural breeding places of the *Anopheles* mosquito are inhabited by "millions." Other mosquitos are able to maintain themselves in Barbados because they naturally breed in water which is not inhabited by "millions," but there is a possibility that the absence of *Anopheles* in this island may be due, wholly or in part to the presence of enormous numbers of these small fish.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture has introduced "millions" into Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Jamaica and they have been taken to British Guiana and Colon. "Millions" are among the most active natural enemies of mosquitos and in any malarial country where they become established they will be almost certain to exert a very considerable effect on the prevalence of the malarial mosquitos, because they naturally inhabit the breeding places of *Anopheles*. In any locality where it is possible to establish "millions" in rain-water tanks, reservoirs, fountains, etc., much relief may be had from the mosquito nuisance.

The "millions" of Barbados are closely related to the top-minnows found in different parts of the United States, certain species of which are well known as natural enemies of mosquitos. Top-minnows from Texas have been introduced into the Hawaiian Islands, and similar fish have frequently been used in stocking streams and ponds for the purpose of reducing the numbers of mosquitos in certain localities.

H. A. BALLON

IMPERIAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOR THE WEST INDIES

#### THE ODONATA OF MEXICO

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In my article on "The Present State of our Knowledge of the Odonata of Mexico and Central America," published in SCIENCE for November 13, 1908, I have unintentionally omitted the Ohio State University from the list of cooperating in-