Corrections to article on New Records of Hemiptera from British Columbia, B. C. Ent. Proceedings, 1924.

Page 28—After line 12 insert Family **Coreidae.** After line 13 insert Family **Aradidae.** After line 15 insert Family **Lygaeidae.**

Line 28, for var. **pilosa** Fieb. read **vagabundus** var. **vagabundus** (Linnaeus). According to McAtee and Malloch (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. 67, p. 18), both this and the next species in the list must be referred to the genus **Empicoris** Wolff. **P. hirtipes** Banks, according to the same authority, is **Empicoris vagabundus** var. **pilosus** (Fieber).

Line 34, **Ploiariola californica** Banks should be changed to **Empicoris rubromaculatus** (Blackburn).

Page 29—line 28, for **distinguendas** read **distinguendus.** For Barkervelle read Barkerville.

WHY PLANT QUARANTINE

By W. H. Lyne

Plant quarantine originated from the desire to foster and protect the production of certain plant food products and was gradually extended to include any products of economic importance threatened by serious insect pests or disease.

The foregoing synopsis is generally understood by those associated with the subject, but it may be interesting to sum up a few of the details that have been responsible for the advanced stages of the work.

Though quarantine dates back to the days of Adam and Eve, it is only in comparatively recent years that it has developed to a world-wide systematic procedure.

The new provinces or countries appear to have made the most rapid progress in adopting plant quarantine rules and regulations. This may be accounted for by the pioneers acting on their experience with conditions in the older countries from which they came. It became their ambition to keep the new country as free as possible from the destructive pests and diseases with which they were familiar.

The policy of the new countries seems to have stimulated some of the older ones to increase their vigilance in the matter of plant protection as noted by their new or amended regulations.

To-day practically every civilized country has some restriction or other with a view to protecting itself against a particular plant pest. In fact some of them appear to have become so keen on the subject as to seriously embarras certain commercial interests. But in spite of that

we have to admit the situation warranted action that would at least reduce the danger, even though it did not result in complete control. The fault has usually been in the methods adopted.

The methods commonly in operation are systematic inspection, disinfection and total embargo. The latter and most drastic of the three appears to have caused the greatest embarrassment. Unfortunately there are certain pests so obscure in connection with their particular host plant or product as to practically defy detection, and total embargo seems to be the only way to prevent their becoming established in the country or province trying to keep them out.

The question is sometimes asked, "Is not fumigation an effective safeguard?" and we have to reply that it is only effective with certain pests. If it were the all-efficient remedy some people imagine, our problem to avoid embargoes would be easier to solve. In many cases the fumigation formula could be made effective so far as the pest was concerned, but it would be disastrous to the product also.

A great deal has been accomplished in B. C. by rigid inspection, combined with fumigation, but it has not been absolutely successful. It would be very risky in dealing with certain pests, such as Potato tuber moth, Mediterranean fruit-fly, Potato canker, or Chestnut bark disease, etc.

The Entomologist and Pathologist, both economic and systematic, have done excellent work towards solving plant quarantine problems, but there is still a great deal more to be accomplished. Further research regarding minute details in connection with insect pests and diseases is necessary if our plant quarantine work is to be successful in aiding our producers to compete with commercial standards and retain the patronage of foreign markets.

The technical man who can devise means by which total embargoes can be safely removed, and increase the efficiency of control methods, has a bright future ahead of him.

Modern transportation is rapidly welding together the commercial enterprise of the several countries of the world, and, as population increases, the need for conservation of the earth's products will increase. Under those circumstances the work that plant quarantine is trying to accomplish now will be much more necessary in years to come.

Nature will reward the human race just to the extent that the human race assists her to do so. If, on the other hand, we leave everything for Nature to do, she will allow us to rot and be eaten up by pest and disease as the result of our negligence.

The young entomologist and pathologist just budding out should realize he has a man's work to tackle, and that his future efforts will contribute very largely to the preservation of generations to come.