

close resemblance to the common bedbug. The local name of our Californian species is Pajaronela, a word evidently derived from the Spanish Pajaro, a bird, and it would indicate to me a similar manner of living to that of *Argas Columbae*, were not the statements of Mr. Plaskett, which are founded on repeated observations of this locally very common insect, diametrically opposed to such a supposition.

I hope that the publication of these statements will excite some interest amongst practical students of entomology, and that they may lead to a closer study of those insects which interfere with the well-being of our own race.

It may be that a closer study of the facts will furnish us with data that will explain why the sting of an insect, in some instances producing serious consequences, is in others perfectly harmless. Such data might throw some light on the mysterious play of idiosyncrasies.

H. H. BEHR.

The specimen sent by Dr. Behr has been submitted for identification to the United States Entomologist, Dr. Howard, from whose Division the following reply has been received :

"In the absence of Dr. Howard, I have to reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, transmitting a copy of an article by Dr. H. H. Behr, and a specimen of tick for identification. Mr. Banks, our authority on ticks, has examined the specimen in question, and is responsible for the following identification and note :

"The tick is *Ornithodoros Americanus*, Marx, and probably the same as *O. turicata*, Megnin, from Mexico. Neumann, in his recent revision of the group, uses Megnin's name. It is well known to attack various animals. It is not common in the Southwest. There are four species of Argasids in our country : *Argas Americanus*, Pack.; *A. Sanchezii*, Dugès ; *Ornithodoros Americanus*, Marx, and *O. Megnini*, Dugès. Another species, *A. talajae*, Guerin, may also occur in the region near Mexico.'

"The specimen and manuscript are returned herewith.

"C. L. MARLATT,

"Acting Entomologist."