Replied by letter Dec. 21. 1926.

INGHAM OLD HALL,
NORWICH.

1. XII. 26

Dear Sir

I should be very grateful if you could spare me a copy of your recent paper on Canadian Copepods (Cont. Canad. Biol. 1923).
This is not in the Zoological Society's library so is only available to me by personal visit to the Nat. History Museum in London.
I had a look at it a day or two ago but was not able to note contents fully.
I am sending you two papers of my own in exchange, though I doubt if they will interest you.
It seemed to me that your Leuckartia calanorum = L. mohammed Bl. & Rich. - have you compared them? L. mohammed is, as you know, an "inland" freshwater Leuckartia. I find it occasionally in rather saline ditches in Norfolk.

Yours faithfully
Robert Gurney

A good many years ago there were those who tried to make our flesh creep by alarms of a Yellow Peril, but no one foresaw that the first wave of Eastern invaders would be not Yellow men but Crabs. But so it is, and it is perhaps appropriate that this invasion should first have made good its hold upon Germany whose Kaiser was so emphatic upon the reality of the menace of the Yellow Peril. The facts are these

In ~~the discovery was~~

It is well known that from time to time strange creatures from the far East have been discovered in Europe, imported with ~~from~~ Cargoes of fruit; more rarely marine animals strange to Europe have made their appearance, and ~~this~~ occurrence has been explained as due to transport on Ships' bottoms. But they have rarely established themselves for any length of time & have generally been merely "chance occurrences".

In 1912 the discovery was announced of a small Crab in the Elbe which was identified as the "Hairy fisted Crab" of China — Eriocheir Sinensis. As time went on other notices of its occurrence appeared & it became evident that ~~this was not merely a~~ the Crab had "come to stay" and was quite able to accomodate itself to its new surroundings. It was a very interesting new member of our fauna, but that seemed all there was to it.

Now it appears that our new immigrant has passed from the

Hope of the welcome guest and must be classed with the little owl, the grey squirrel & the musquash, among the undesirable aliens. It has multiplied to such an extent that, in two directions, it is a serious nuisance.
In the Elbe it extends its range up the Estuarine region of the river, & its habit is to burrow into the muddy banks, riddling them with small holes. The loosened bank is washed down by waves or tidal scour, & new holes are burrowed in the fresh face of the bank & so the process goes on, with serious wastage of land. In another direction these activities are more directly & more painfully felt, in injury to the fishing industry. There has in the past been a thriving fishery for — by long lines & baited traps & stake nets, in the Elbe Estuary, but this has of late been brought almost to a stop by the Crabs which strip the hooks both of their bait and of any fish caught, and so maybe the fish caught in traps or stake nets that they are useless for sale.

Now these Crabs produce free swimming larvae, which may be carried far & wide by the currents of the sea, and nothing seems more certain than that this pest will sooner or later appear on our own coasts if it has not done so already. Our tidal Eastern rivers seem entirely suited to these requirements

& there is every reason to fear that we may have the same problem to face as they have in Germany. It is easy to issue a warning, but impossible to offer a remedy. At least we ought to be on our guard & if the Crab should be seen it should be destroyed. The object of this note is to draw the attention of all who may have the opportunity for observing the Crab to the importance of notifying at once its occurrence if seen & of its destruction if possible. Perhaps the best thing to do would be to send any specimens obtained to the Curator of the Norwich Museum in order that there may be no mistake as to the identity. The Crab cannot well be mistaken for our common Shore Crab or Helleborus, its most obvious character being the woolly claws from which it gets its name.

A number of foreign Marine Crustacea are known to have been brought to Europe from time to time on Ships' bottoms, but none of them have permanently established themselves. Ships are often carrying a rich growth of Barnacles & the like fauna which other animals find better.

In the case of this Crab such transport is supposed to have been unlikely & it is suggested that it may have been brought in ballast water. Crabs have actually been found in such conditions

First record 1912 in Weser.

1914–18 occurred in Elbe & Hamburg harbour.

1926 abundant

Breeds in Estuary & can migrate hundreds of Kms upriver. Can go overland. In freshwater

Has now reached right up Elbe as far as Prag & Berlin

Up Rhine to Mainz: Weser, Ems. Oder. in Baltic Eastward to E. Prussia & Vistula.

Breaks & damages nets

In sandy places they bury the nets.