

University of Geneva, and Dr. Hettner, of Tübingen, professor of geography in the University of Würzburg. Professor von Frey, of Leipzig, has received a call to Zurich, and Professor W. C. Röntgen, of Würzburg, a call to Leipzig.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

ZOOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PUBLICATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Any criticisms from Dr. W. H. Dall on the Report of the British Association Committee on the above subject are most welcome, and we look forward to receiving his remarks on the several other details to which he implies that exception may be taken. Meanwhile permit me to point out that his criticism of recommendation (not 'rule') 3 is based on several misapprehensions. Dr. Dall speaks for 'the working zoologists,' but, as stated in our Report, those are just the people that an extensive correspondence showed to be in favor of our recommendation. But, whether warranted or unwarranted, our Report neither contains nor rests on any "assumption that the publication of the separate papers of a volume before the volume as a whole is issued is 'improper,' while the indefinite delay of their publication is 'proper.'" On the contrary, the Report makes precisely the same suggestions concerning date as does Dr. Dall (see recommendation 1), and we fully agree as to the advisability of publishing papers promptly and as to the value of separate copies.

Now, what is our recommendation 3? No one would imagine from Dr. Dall's letter that it was this: "That authors' separate copies should not be distributed privately before the paper has been published in the regular manner." The Committee refuses to consider that an author's distribution of a few copies of his paper to a few friends, or to a few workers whose addresses he happens to know, can rank as 'publication.' In the opinion of the Committee, the terms 'public' and 'private' are opposites and not synonyms. The publications of the Philadelphia Academy, the Washington Societies and the U. S. National Museum are not in question. What the Committee had chiefly to consider (as plainly stated in the Re-

port) was the case of smaller publishing bodies, unable, through lack of funds, to follow those admirable examples. Such smaller bodies often allow their contributors to distribute privately a few copies of their individual papers. This private distribution may take place two or three years before the actual publication of the volume or part, and often is confined to the casual presentation of half a dozen copies. Say the paper describes new species of molluscs. How is the worker on molluscs in another country to hear of this paper? How is he to obtain it if he does hear of it? How is he to learn its contents? He cannot be sure that a letter from him will ever reach the author, or that if it does it will meet with any response. Experience teaches otherwise. Meanwhile he himself describes the same species, and his paper is published, is advertised, and is procurable through the ordinary channels by anyone that chooses. And so springs up a fresh crop of nomenclature troubles. How can Dr. Dall, as a working zoologist, regard the former method as a greater convenience than the latter?

Our remedy is simply an attempt to regularize this previous distribution, to insist on its being made 'public' as well as 'private.' If separate copies are to be issued before the volume a certain proportion of them must be made accessible to anyone, not merely to friends of the author, and this fact must be publicly announced. In short, we are trying to bring about the very state of things that Dr. Dall admires, and we trust that when he perceives this he will give us his influential support.

Your readers may be interested to know that our Committee has been strengthened by the addition of Mr. B. Daydon Jackson and Mr. A. C. Seward, and now proposes to extend its labors to *botanical* publications. Any criticisms or suggestions on the subjects within the cognizance of the Committee will be gratefully received, and I shall be pleased to send its circulars to those interested. Communications should be addressed to

F. A. BATHER,

*Secretary of the British Association Committee
on Zoological and Botanical Publications.*

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