the end of the article I suggested that if working zoologists would send me their votes for or against these proposals, I would list the names and forward them for publication. I give below a list of those voting, *all against* the changes referred to. Many of the voters added strong expressions, condemning the practise of altering names, and some wrote long and interesting letters. Not a single voice was raised in favor of the changes. It will be seen that the list, while only moderately long, includes a highly representative series of names:

FRANK C. BAKER, Chicago Academy of Sciences. [Mollusca.]

PAUL BARTSCH, assistant curator, Division of Mollusca, U. S. Nat. Museum.

C. J. S. BETHUNE, editor *Canadian Entomologist.*

PHILIP P. CALVERT, University of Pennsylvania. [Odonata.]

THOMAS L. CASEY, U. S. A. [Coleoptera, Mollusca.]

H. L. CLARK, Olivet College. [Echinoderms.]

EDWIN W. DORAN, Biological Department, James Millikin University.

E. P. FELT, state entomologist of New York.

L. S. FRIERSON, Frierson, La. [Mollusca.]

K. W. GENTHE, assistant professor of natural history, Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.

JOSEPH GRINNELL, Pasadena, Calif. [Birds.]

JUNIUS HENDERSON, curator of museum, University of Colorado. [Birds, Mollusca.]

L. O. HOWARD, chief of Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department Agriculture.

DAVID STARR JORDAN, president of Stanford University.

J. PERCY MOORE, University of Pennsylvania. [Vermes.]

HENRY F. NACHTRIEB, professor of animal biology, University of Minnesota.

J. G. NEEDHAM, Lake Forest, Ills. [Entomology.]

OSCAR W. OESTLUND, University of Minnesota. [Aphididæ.]

GEO. W. PECKHAM, Milwaukee, Wis. [Arachnida.]

MARY J. RATHBUN, U. S. Nat. Museum. [Crustacea,]

H. M. SMITH, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington.

CHAS. P. SIGERFOOS, professor of zoology, University of Minnesota.

C. W. STILES, Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. [Helminthology.]

F. M. WEBSTER, Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It occurs to me that it might become a useful custom to take votes on questions of wide interest through the agency of SCIENCE; not for the purpose of enforcing rules or decisions, but in order to bring out and crystallize public opinion. When there were many votes on each side, the editor or the voters might be asked to choose one on each side to present the arguments in full.

T. D. A. C.

India (which he was editing), quite without the approval of the author himself!

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF MOSQUITOES.

RECENT authors have subdivided the Culicidæ in various ways, although using mainly the same set of characters. It seems, however, that the best and most natural grouping consists in the recognition of three subfamilies, as follows:

I. ANOPHELINÆ. Defined by the long elliptical compressed thorax; the palpi are long in both sexes; the metanotum is without hairs. The larvæ have a short sessile breathing apparatus and are surface feeders, being supplied with fan-shaped tufts on the dorsum, which serve as an attachment to the water film. A ventral brush or rudder is present on the last segment after the first stage. The larvæ live in all kinds of water, from that in hollow trees to the edges of swift streams, depending upon the species in question. They all require a comparatively extended surface, owing to their habits of surface feeding. Contains the genus *Anopheles* and its subdivisions.

II. CULICINÆ. Defined by the short rounded thorax; the palpi are generally short in the female, sometimes short in the male also; the metanotum is without hairs. The larvæ have a long breathing tube, always longer than wide, and are not surface feeders. A ventral brush or rudder is present on the last segment after the first stage. The larvæ live in permanent or temporary stagnant pools or puddles; several species are addicted to hollow trees and one lives only in water-worn holes in rocks. A few species are predaceous, feeding ex-

clusively on the larvæ of other species. So far as known, all the species live free in water, although it should be noted that one genus, *Tæniorhynchus,* has defied all attempts at learning its life history by the ordinary methods of dipping in puddles.

Contains the genera *Megarhinus, Psorophora, Culex, Grabhamia, Theobaldia, Stegomyia, Verrallina, Aëdes, Howardina, Uranotænia, Deinocerites,* etc.

III. Sabethinæ. Defined by the presence of hairs on the metanotum; the palpi are generally short in both sexes. The larvæ never have the median ventral brush or rudder on the last segment, nor any pecten on the air tube in the species known. The air tube is long. The larvæ live in small bodies of water confined usually in parts of plants, such as the leaves of the pitcher plant, leaves of *Bromelias,* flower sheaths of *Canna,* cocoanut shells and cacao husks, sometimes with surprisingly little water. A majority of the species inhabit the moist tropical regions.

Contains the genera *Sabethes, Sabethoides, Wyeomyia, Dendromyia, Joblotia, Phoniomyia,* etc. Harrison G. Dyar.

THE QUESTION OF TAX-FREE ALCOHOL.

At various times during the last fifteen years attempts have been made to secure legislation providing for the sale of alcohol for technical and other industrial uses free from the revenue tax. These attempts have resulted in failure and this country, in consequence, is practically prevented from developing certain important industries. In Germany and France, tax-free alcohol is used in enormous quantities for manufacturing purposes and is even employed as a fuel. The alcohol so employed must be 'denatured' or treated with some substance to render it unfit for drinking.

A few years ago the 'Committee of Manufacturers formed to assist in securing cheaper Alcohol for Industrial Purposes' was organized and has been very active in educating the public as to the advantages of cheap alcohol, and also in the direction of suggesting legislation at Washington. This committee is now favoring the passage of the bill recently introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Calderhead, which provides that no internal revenue tax shall be levied on ethyl alcohol of domestic production which has been rendered undrinkable or unfit for use as a beverage, prior to withdrawal from distillery bonded warehouse.

As chemists are naturally and properly interested in the alcohol question, a committee was appointed nearly two years ago by the American Chemical Society to cooperate in every legitimate way with the Committee of Manufacturers in securing the desired end. This committee of the Chemical Society consists of Ira Remsen, H. W. Wiley and J. H. Long. At the recent New Orleans meeting of Section C of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Chemical Society, in joint session, a brief report of progress was made by Mr. Long, chairman of the committee. This report called out a very lively discussion, following which Section C appointed the same committee to bring in certain resolutions at the next session. The resolutions when read were adopted unanimously by the chemists present. They are as follows:

In view of the fact that alcohol enters largely into the production of many articles of common use and that the development of certain industries depends directly on the cost of alcohol,

And in view of the further fact that in the United States there is no provision for the sale of tax-free alcohol for manufacturing purposes and that consequently many of our manufacturers of chemical products work under a serious disadvantage as compared with the manufacturers of Germany, France and England, where the laws permit the sale of tax-free alcohol for use in the arts and industries,

And in view of the further fact that the use of cheap alcohol in this way would stimulate enormously many industries in the United States, and benefit the farmer, the chemical manufacturer and the ordinary consumer,

Be it resolved by this section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that we heartily endorse the efforts