

to genetics, of course, nor even to biology. The same reasons can be urged for oxygene as for pangene. Scores of terms have been based on the same root,  $\gamma\epsilon\nu$ , but hitherto with a short vowel, as in the Greek. Some philologists add a letter in forming such a word as clone, where the original Greek vowel is long, but this has nothing to do with Dr. Shull's "general law of English philology" that would lengthen short vowels to enable Greek derivatives to be pronounced with a German accent. In this case Johannsen's correct word "gen" was displaced by a linguistic monstrosity, "gene," because the latter was supposed to sound more like German, and because "the German word '*Pangen*' better expresses the meaning involved than does the English word 'pangen.'" The new final "e" symbolizes the magically improved connotation acquired by Darwin's word pangen in passing from English into the hallowed precincts of the German language. It replaces the italics, capitals and quotation marks otherwise required to differentiate the more expressive German "*Pangen*" from the ordinary English "pangen." The mistake, as now appears, was not a merely casual adoption of the German plural "*Gene*" as an English singular, but a deliberate substitution of an erroneous new singular "gene," anomalous alike in German, Greek or English. Dr. Shull does not state when, where or by whom this change from "gen" into "gene" was determined, but these details are of no importance now that the method has been explained. It would have been easier to bestow "gene" and "pangene" on the French, who use "*oxygène*" and a whole class of similar terms, but the German derivation is more ingenious.

Regarding the phenotypes, little need be said. Dr. Shull reasserts the reality of phenotypes, and even insists with italics that "statistical investigation may *discover, measure and describe* phenotypes." But if it be true that "phenotypes and genotypes exist among Mendelian hybrids," or elsewhere in nature, they must be the names of classes or groups of animal or plant individuals distin-

guished by the possession of certain characters or gens. Such group names are usually considered as collectives, but Dr. Shull maintains that phenotypes "must always be abstractions." Evidently the new science of genetics is to have an original system of metaphysics as well as of philology.

O. F. COOK

BARD, CALIFORNIA,  
June 17, 1912

#### PROPOSITIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

ATTENTION of zoologists is invited to the rule that all propositions for changes to the International Code must be in the hands of the Commission at least one year before the meeting of the International Congress.

Formal notice of the exact date of meeting has not yet reached me, but I hope to have my first report to the Commission prepared for mailing not later than September 1. About that date I shall also send to SCIENCE and to the *Zoologischer Anzeiger* a complete list of the propositions that have been sent to me.

It is a great satisfaction to the Commission to note the increased and more general interest exhibited by zoologists in nomenclatorial matters, and I take the liberty of repeating a statement made on several former occasions, namely, that the Commission welcomes most heartily correspondence and suggestions from all zoologists.

C. W. STILES,  
*Secretary, International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

#### THE PEI YANG UNIVERSITY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: A note by Consul General S. S. Knabenshue, of Tientsin, China, regarding vacancies in the staff of the Pei Yang University, of that city, published in *Daily Consular and Trade Reports* of July 8, seems likely to deluge me with inquiries and applications, and I would be glad if you would aid me in forestalling them by publishing this statement. There are no vacancies in the staff of the Pei Yang University at