

Devils Lake was the home of millions of pickerel prior to the year 1888. Carloads were shipped away regularly each week during the winters when they were so abundant.

A series of dry years caused a lowering of the level in some fresh-water lakes formerly connected with Devils Lake. This in turn was followed by the drying up of the stream connecting Devils Lake with sweet water associates. These latter had served as breeding grounds for the pickerel which came in the autumn, like the anadromous fish to the ocean. They entered water that increased gradually in salinity. Having learned that this was the history of the former occupants of the lake the experiments of the North Dakota Biological Station were directed toward repeating artificially what had occurred in nature. Results have finally been obtained which are wholly successful. Evidences for this conclusion will be submitted in the complete discussion referred to in this abstract.

SERGIVS MORGULIS (Carnegie Nutrition Laboratory): (1) *The Influence of Protracted and Intermittent Fasting upon Growth.* (2) *The Nervous System and Regeneration.*

C. C. NUTTING (University of Iowa): *Can We get Together on the Nomenclature Question?*

The present situation is unsatisfactory, and a solution is greatly to be desired.

Points on which both parties are agreed: (1) That there should be definite laws of nomenclature, including priority. (2) That there should be a commission to interpret and administer these laws.

Position held by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature: (1) That no exception be allowed to the priority rule. (2) That no rule shall be modified except by unanimous vote of the commission. (3) That the commission be treated with the deference due an international court.

Position held by a large number of those who voted against the priority rule: (1) That there should be a reasonable "statute of limitation" by which names long in undisputed and general use should be excepted from priority rule. (2) That there should be an application of the principles of equity in special cases. (3) That a majority of the commission should have the power to propose changes in the rules of nomenclature, and to bring such changes to a vote by the International Commission. (4) That we retain the right of free criticism of the commission without

being required to observe the etiquette supposed to govern international courts. The commission is the servant of its constituents the "common people" among the zoologists.

The present situation regarding the priority rule: (1) The commission "stands pat" in adhering to the position outlined above. (2) A majority of zoologists are opposed to the priority rule as administered. The commission has not secured the support of its constituency, and has no means of enforcing its decrees. There is a distinct tendency among working systematists to ignore the findings of the commission.

A tentative solution: (1) Adoption of a rule by which a two thirds majority of the commission can change any rule. (2) Recognition of the legal principles of (a) the statute of limitation and (b) the law of equity as applied to individual cases.

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Secretary

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

##### THE SOCIETY OF RESEARCH WORKERS IN EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

At the meeting of this society held on December 18, 1912, at the University Club, Washington, D. C., Dr. William Salant, chief of the section of pharmacology, Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, gave an exhaustive review of the literature on creatin and creatinine metabolism.

Especial stress was laid upon the elimination of creatin in various diseases affecting the muscles, the central nervous system and the liver.

The recent work of Mendel and his collaborators on the relation of carbohydrate metabolism to creatin, in which it was shown that a distinct relation probably exists between the formation of creatine and the amount of carbohydrates ingested, was discussed. In addition, the speaker gave a brief résumé of his own work on the influence of caffeine on creatin and creatinine elimination, pointing out that under some conditions, such as starvation, caffeine may cause a considerable increase in the output of creatine.

Other conditions affecting the elimination of creatine and creatinine such as temperature, the amount of age, the fate of ingested creatin and creatinine, and the metabolism of these substances in different animals, were dealt upon with some length.

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