

The work under review is one of extremes. It ascends to heights of excellence and brilliant achievement, and then breaks down, where one would least expect it, in errors and fallacies which seem inexcusable in one so gifted. It is greatly to be regretted that a book involving so much original work, and containing so much that is really valuable, should be marred by blemishes which prevent it from being regarded as an authority. Nevertheless, if the judicious reader will pardon these blemishes, the larger part of this treatise constitutes a monumental work of great erudition, and of elaborate and industrious research.

FRANK W. VERY

*The International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, with Appendix and Summaries of Opinions No. 1 to No. 56.* T. O. SMALLWOOD, 3216 N St., Washington, D. C., September, 1915. 4to. 28 pp.

The ninth International Congress of Zoology met at Monaco, March, 1913. The full report was issued by the Imprimerie Oberthur, Rennes, France, 1914. Owing to the disturbances in Europe this report is practically inaccessible to students, and no separate copies of the rules in English appear to be available, nor does any provision seem to have been made for the republication of the rules separately. Hence the publisher of this pamphlet, with the approval of the secretary of the International Commission and the careful supervision of some of the American members, has provided what may be regarded as a trustworthy edition which may be obtained as above indicated.

A partial reprint of the rules without the opinions has been issued in French by M. Maurice Cossmann in the *Revue critique de Paléozoologie* for July and August, 1914, and in this connection a word of caution seems to be required. On page 14 of the separate copy of this rendition of the rules we read as follows under the following caption:

*Autres Décisions du Congrès se Rapportant à la Nomenclature*

A. Des exceptions à la loi de priorité pourrout être admises:

1°. Quand un nom de Genre ou d'espèce devrait être transporté à un autre Genre ou à une autre espèce existants;

2°. Quand un nom a été employé pour un Genre pendant 50 ans, jusqu'à 1890, dans les travaux scientifiques, tels que monographies, catalogues scientifiques, etc.;

3°. Quand le nom le plus ancien, conformément à la loi de priorité, n'a pas été admis pendant 20 ans dans la systématique scientifique.

*Note.*—Chaque exception doit être soumise à la Commission internationale de Nomenclature qui examine chaque cas et le soumettra au prochain congrès international.

As the title of the pamphlet reads "Règles internationales . . . Adoptées par les Congrès," etc., it would seem that the reader might readily suppose that the paragraphs quoted from M. Cossmann's reprint (but not appearing in the English version) had been affirmatively decided by the congress. This, however, is not the case. Paragraphs A2 and A3 were submitted, it is true, but were definitely rejected, though no indication of this appears in the French reprint. Paragraphs A and A1 are qualified by the note under paragraph A3, each case to be submitted to the commission and decided on its merits.

WM. H. DALL

#### SPECIAL ARTICLES

##### THE LIGHT-SENSIBILITY OF COPPER-OXIDE

THE fact that selenium changes its electrical conductivity under the influence of light was discovered by May in 1873. Since that time the property of light-sensibility has been looked for in many substances and it has been found that sulphur, shellac, paraffin, anthracene and several other substances possess this property to a slight extent. The most noteworthy addition to the list was made by Jaeger who discovered the light-sensibility of stibnite (native  $Sb_2S_3$ ) in 1907. Since a careful study of the behavior of these substances is bound, ultimately, to shed light on the mechanism of metallic conduction, it seemed worth while to continue the search for other substances which show marked light-sensitiveness. Recently the