

The simplest method to distinguish between two family or subfamily names that would otherwise be spelled alike, would seem to be to add *idæ* or *inæ* to the full generic names in the few cases in which duplication would occur, as *Picaidæ* and *Picusidæ*. Other expedients would be to write *2d* after the later name, or the year in which the name was published, or the Greek letter β . To make a prefix as *Pro* a part of the family or subfamily name and so cause the name to appear in alphabetic lists far away from its logical place and to lead the uninitiated into thinking of a *Pro* genus which does not exist seems as absurd as it is unnecessary.

M. W. LYON, JR.

THE NEEDS OF MEN OF SCIENCE IN RUMANIA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Please publish in SCIENCE the following extract from a letter of Professor Marinesco, a leading scientist and physician in Rumania.

.... I believe that our American colleagues, whose country made such a noble contribution to victory, ought to take notice of the unhappy state of the Rumanian men of science which is due to the occupation of our country by the enemy. It is probably unknown that after the occupation we were in extreme distress, because all our instruments were then taken away or destroyed. A part of our libraries has been destroyed. Furthermore, since Rumania has no chemical industries, we do not possess the chemical reagents, etc., indispensable for scientific research. Allied European countries which would aid us, France for instance, have been equally devastated.

Perhaps the United States which has contributed so largely to the restoration of Europe would make a grand gesture and help the investigators of our country by sending some instruments and a certain amount of reagents as far as they are able to do so. They can not be accepted gratuitously; but we believe that we will be able to repay the debt later when the unfavorable exchange no longer weighs so heavily upon our laboratory budgets.

Hoping that my prayer will find a favorable response among my American colleagues, we would like you to be our spokesman.

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ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE, NEW YORK,

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QUOTATIONS

SCIENCE AND THE PUBLIC

THIS is the heading of a leaderette in the *Daily Mail*, which states that "Light is to be 'caught bending' next week at Cardiff." It goes on to say that "We have in Britain today as original a group of scientific men as any country in the world; and they are beginning at last to see the wisdom of coming out of their caves and laboratories and applying their brains to practical affairs; to the laws that govern heredity, to wireless apparatus, to the uses of alcohol, to the migration of fish, to medicinal thought-reading, to the possibilities of intensive cultivation—which bulks largely this year—indeed to scores of practical themes to which their more abstract studies are leading.

"In any case, it is time most profitably spent if for one week in the year our men of science bend their united energies to the work of interesting the public in the advance of science. It is as much the duty of the public to appreciate the men of science as of men of science to come to meet the public."

Now, what does the *Daily Mail* think "our men of science" had been doing during the period before they began to see the wisdom of coming out of their caves and applying their brains to practical affairs? Does it really think that they have suddenly awakened and hurriedly worked up papers on the laws of heredity, on wireless apparatus, etc., just for the purpose of interesting the public during this British Association week?

The *Mail* speaks of "our men of science" with a patronizing air, a kindly condescension which implies that they are rather weird uncanny folk, not quite normal, who dwell in "caves and laboratories," and do not usually apply their brains to practical affairs—so unlike the brainy trumpeters of the daily press, who gaily talk of "catching light bending" without having the faintest conception of the significance of the allusion. This superior attitude of the journalist who, in many cases, can not even write English correctly, and whose mind is blankly opaque to the most elementary notions of physical science, is galling to those