

It is therefore probable that the concentration of hydrogen ions of the soils has a direct rather than an indirect influence on the constitution of the vegetation.

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THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE CONCILIIUM BIBLIOGRAPHICUM

PROFESSOR HENRY WARD's appreciative account of Dr. H. H. Field and his self-sacrificing work in connection with the founding and maintenance of the Concilium Bibliographicum suggests to me to make a brief statement concerning the present status of the Concilium.

I spent several weeks in July and August of this summer in a personal examination, in Zurich, of Concilium affairs, representing the National Research Council and the Rockefeller Foundation. The Council has had for some time, during the latter months of Dr. Field's life-time and since his death, in consideration the possibility of extending some aid for the maintenance and further development of the Concilium. The Foundation has manifested a similar interest with a tangible expression of it by two appropriations to assist in meeting the current expenses of the Concilium in 1920 and 1921.

On arrival in Zurich I found Concilium matters in a critical situation. Dr. Field's patriotic activities during the war had left him but little time to devote to the Concilium, and the disastrous results of war-time and after-war conditions on such international organizations as the Concilium had left things in very bad shape. Dr. Field's sudden death prevented him from even beginning a serious rehabilitation of Concilium work and finances.

After many conferences with Mrs. Field and her business friends, with Fraülein Rühl who for twenty years has been Dr. Field's chief technical assistant and was practically the only member of the Concilium staff still giving full time to its affairs, and with an official representative of the Swiss Natural Science Association, which under the terms

of Dr. Field's will becomes, under certain conditions, the legatee of Dr. Field's financial interest in the Concilium, and after long and difficult examination of the business books and memoranda of the Concilium, I arranged to set up a provisional reorganization of the Concilium under the acting directorship, until January 1, 1922, without salary, of Professor J. Strohl, of the Zoological Institute of the University of Zurich.

This temporary reorganization will allow some of the most needed work of the Concilium to go forward, supported financially by the subsidies of the Swiss Government, the city of Zurich and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Concilium, which from the business point of view, is a non-profit taking company, most of whose shares belong to the Field estate, owns an equity of some value in the building at 79 Hofstrasse which for several years has been the Concilium offices and printing rooms. It also has some assets in the way of many already printed cards, some little stock of paper, some office furniture, type and printing presses, etc. But most importantly its assets are its "good will" and subscription list. This list must have immediate attention and revision and that is part of the work now being done under the provisional arrangement.

Professor Ward and other American biologists may be assured that the Concilium is not being allowed to go to pieces without some positive efforts being exerted to save it. It is not yet time, but soon will be, for a definite statement to be issued to the American subscribers to the Concilium cards, which, I hope, will not have to include a direct appeal for money for the support of the Concilium but will appeal for a renewed interest in, and support of the organization, to be manifested by a confirmation of old subscriptions and an addition of new ones. I was much interested to discover from examination of the subscription lists that one third of all the Concilium subscribers are American.

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL