

erately work an injury to their country and kindred—it may be on the grounds of their own material interest. A biologically educated community, while according to the individual in his ordinary affairs the widest range of personal freedom, would take measures to prevent effectively its interference with the public welfare, whatever might be the form of this interference.

There is one other argument I would use for the biological factor in training the citizen. As social evolution progresses, the natural differences between men become more and more marked, as does also the material expression of these differences. One individual—say a Lister—is worth to the community many millions of pounds; another is worth little or nothing, or in some cases his value may be expressed by a negative quantity. And along with this increase of inequality there comes, unhappily, the deteriorating nervous balance which accentuates discontent and social friction.

The biological outlook I believe to furnish a most potent aid towards the smoothing away of such social difficulties and the lubrication of the social mechanism, for it enables us to see with clear vision through the obscuring veil of superficiality that separates class from class, and shows us how our fellow-citizens beyond, in spite of their differences in manners and clothes and language, are after all, on the average, merely human beings like ourselves, fitted out with the same strengths and trammelled by the same weaknesses as our own.

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AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

THE International Congress of Plant Sciences, recently in session at Ithaca, New York (August 16 to 23), held its meetings in several sections, one of which was taxonomy. The program for this section provided for several sessions, three of which were set aside for a round-table discussion on nomenclature, with Mr. A. S. Hitchcock in charge.

At the first meeting of the round table, Thursday afternoon, the chairman placed before the meeting for discussion: (a) The proposals adopted by the Imperial Botanical Conference held in London, 1924 (presented at the Ithaca meeting through Dr. A. B. Rendle); (b) the resolutions adopted by the Botanical Society of America at the Kansas City meeting (1925); (c) certain generic names, suggested for addition to the list of *nomina conservanda*, presented by the Committee on Australian Botanical Nomenclature, through Mr. Sprague (Kew); (d) a paper on Standard-species of *Nomina Conservanda* by M.

L. Green, presented by Mr. Sprague. These proposals were written on the blackboard for examination by the audience.

Four invitation papers were read by Dr. John Briquet, Geneva, Switzerland; Mr. T. A. Sprague, Kew, England; Dr. M. L. Fernald, Gray Herbarium; Dr. M. A. Howe, New York Botanical Garden.

At the suggestion of the chairman the proposal for an international committee was first taken up for discussion. The section decided that such a committee be chosen by a temporary committee of five appointed by the chairman, providing that one member should be the chairman, that two others should be Dr. Briquet and Dr. Rendle and that the remaining two members should have special knowledge of cryptogams. At the Brussels meeting (1910) of the international congress, there was appointed a permanent committee on nomenclature, consisting of Briquet (Geneva), rapporteur general, Harms (Berlin), vice-rapporteur, Rendle (London) and Mangin (Paris). Briquet and Rendle, the only members of this committee present at the Ithaca meeting, were asked to serve on the appointing committee in order to coordinate the new international committee with the old permanent committee of the Brussels Congress, which had certain duties in preparing material for the London Congress (intended to be held in 1915 but delayed and now planned for 1930). The chairman asked Dr. Briquet and Dr. Rendle to suggest the cryptogamic members of the appointing committee, which suggestion was followed. The appointing committee consisted of Briquet (chairman), Rendle, Arthur, Ostenfeld and Hitchcock.

On motion of Dr. Hill (Kew) the meeting adjourned until Friday evening in order to give the committee time to make its selection.

On Friday evening the appointing committee reported, proposing an interim Committee on Nomenclature, consisting of twenty-nine members, including the four members of the old permanent committee mentioned above. The report was adopted by the section on taxonomy and sanctioned by the congress at a general business meeting. It was provided also that the officers of the original committee (Briquet, chairman; Harms, vice-chairman) should be the corresponding officers of the interim committee. The interim committee consists of:

Barnhart (New York), Bitter (Goettingen), Black (South Australia), Briquet (Geneva), Degen (Budapest), De Wildeman (Brussels), Diels (Berlin), Domin (Prague), Fedtschenko (Leningrad), Harms (Berlin), Hitchcock (Washington), Jaczewski (Moscow), Janchen (Vienna), Lecomte (Paris), H. Lindberg (Helsingfors), Maire (Algiers), Mangin (Paris), Moss (South Africa), Murbeck (Lund), Nakai (Tokyo), Ostenfeld (Copenhagen), Ramsbot-

tom (London), Rendle (London), Robinson (Cambridge, Mass.), Schinz (Zürich), Shear (Washington), Sprague (Kew), Trotter (Florence), Valetton (Leyden).

This committee will consider proposals for amending the International Rules of Nomenclature and will make recommendations to the next international congress to be held in London in 1930. At an early date the chairman of the interim committee, Dr. Briquet, will issue a circular containing directions for preparing proposals which are to be submitted to the committee.

The official program of the congress stated that "the Congress does not provide an occasion for legislation on regulatory matters." Hence no action was taken on the proposals discussed, but the way is now open for presenting these and other matters to the London Congress through the new interim committee.

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS COMMITTEE AND INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL COOPERATION

AMONG the several continuing special commissions and committees of the League of Nations the International Committee and Institute of Intellectual Cooperation have a particular interest for scientific workers.

The special function of the committee and institute is the promotion of international undertakings in the various fields of scholarship. They interest themselves in university conditions and relations; in the international exchange of professors and students, the international equivalence of diplomas, the development of an international association of universities and of international associations of students; in the international relations of libraries, bibliographic services and museums. They are interested in the proprietary rights in his work of the author, artist and scientific discoverer. They hope to be able to find means of giving some special support to scholarly undertakings in countries facing particular difficulties in this regard. They have stimulated the establishment of thirty national committees, in as many countries, to maintain helpful relations with the central international committee, and to encourage the participation of these countries in international intellectual activities.

With the prestige of the League of Nations behind them the committee and institute can take up matters of scholarly and general intellectual interest directly

with governments, and can hope to obtain special governmental support for the holding of international congresses and reunions of international groups of experts for the study of special problems of intellectual life common to many nations.

The membership of the League of Nations Committee includes such widely known names as those of Mme. Curie, Einstein, Gilbert Murray and R. A. Millikan. The present president of the committee is Professor Lorentz, of Leiden, who succeeds Henri Bergson, forced by ill health to resign both the presidency and his membership in the committee. The fourteen members of the committee represent fourteen countries, and meetings of the whole committee and of the four or five continuing sub-committees so far organized are held at least annually.

But no matter how capable, distinguished and devoted the members of a committee with such interests and aims as this one has, there is necessary, for definite achievement, some sort of a continuously working agency competently organized and equipped to carry forward to realization the recommendations outlined by the committee. This agency the League of Nations Committee now has in the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, organized in January of this year and now actively at work.

The institute has a director and vice-director, ten chiefs and assistant chiefs of sections, all serving full time, and, in addition, a number of occasional special investigators serving for limited periods. There are sections of university relations, scientific, literary and artistic relations, a legal section and a section of information. The institute hopes, especially, to act as a general clearing house for information concerning intellectual activities all over the world. Although the institute is situated in Paris, which offers more and larger library and informational advantages than Geneva, and is so far chiefly supported financially by the generosity of France—Poland and Czecho-Slovakia have made it small appropriations—it is thoroughly international in spirit and make-up and is entirely under the control of the League of Nations Committee.

The annual summer meeting of the committee and its sub-committees has just been held in Geneva. The director, vice-director of the institute and two or three of its section chiefs were in attendance. Two public sessions of the full committee were held, and at most of the private sessions of the committee and sub-committees, which extended through a fortnight, special experts in various fields of the committee's interests were in attendance by invitation.

In the absence of Professor Millikan, the present writer acted as American representative, as was also the case last summer. From the experience of these