From the foregoing experiments it would appear that stickleback alone caused the death directly or indirectly of 49 per cent. of the fry; birds, 57 per cent.; adult trout 64 per cent.; and all natural enemies combined 71 per cent.

Summarizing our results for the past four summers: In 1923, the loss of trout fry in southwestern Ontario was 96½ per cent.; in 1924 it was 98 per cent., same place; in 1925, it was 73 per cent.; and in 1926 it was 71 per cent. These two latter on Forbes brook, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

It is quite possible that a portion of the losses may be due to cannibalism among the fry themselves; but this would not alter the total losses as given above.

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THE NEED FOR DEFINITELY INDICATING NEW SYNONYMY AND NEW COMBINATIONS IN TAXONOMY

RECENTLY Dr. Schramm, of *Biological Abstracts*, requested me to serve as a member of a committee to advise the organization publishing *Biological Abstracts* in regard to a number of policies on indexing information from taxonomic papers. One of these questions dealt with the indexing of synonymy and another with the indexing of new combinations of generic and specific names.

It is very important that the working taxonomist should know when a given species is transferred from one genus to another, and it is equally important that he should know when a species name has been suppressed as a synonym of some previously described species. It is the aim of the founders of *Biological Abstracts* to furnish such essential information to students of taxonomy. They have found it very difficult to tell from many papers whether synonymy as indicated in the paper is new or has been previously recorded. They have also found it difficult to determine when species are transferred for the first time from one genus to another. This is especially true for papers dealing with taxonomic zoology.

It therefore seems advisable to present for the discussion of taxonomic zoologists the desirability of determining some way of indicating in their papers when new synonymy is proposed and when new combinations of generic and specific names are employed. In many of the recent extensive revisionary papers, long specific bibliographies have been given with no indications as to whether any of the synonymy is new. It is suggested that an easy way to overcome this would be to write in parentheses the words "new synonymy," or some abbreviation thereof, after each reference to a newly published synonym.

The labeling of new combinations or transfers of species from one genus to another forms a more decided digression from the practice commonly used by zoologists, and especially entomologists; but it is believed that if taxonomic workers would place the words "new combination," or some abbreviation thereof, in parentheses after each such transfer or new combination, it would greatly expedite the work of abstractors and catalogers, and to no small degree assist their colleagues.

Botanists have been much more careful and definite in indicating and cataloging all new combinations. I think it is time for the zoologists to take a lesson from the botanists and label their new combinations. It seems to me equally important that the botanists and zoologists agree to indicate in some clear manner all new synonymy.

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SURFACE TENSION METHODS

ATTENTION should be called to the misapplication of a quotation of Lenard in SCIENCE for March 18, 1927. Lenard states that the straight wire method, as a tearing off method, "as opposed to the ring method" (in Gegensatz zur Ring- oder gar Scheibform des Abreisskörpers) gives the accurate results to which Dr. du Noüy refers. Lenard by no means considers the ring method on equal terms with his own "tearing off method." Lenard's method is not entirely recent and was approved as a substitute for the ring method several years ago. (*Cf. Jour. Phys. Chem.* 1925, 897.)

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Hirudinea. By W. A. HARDING and J. PERCY MOORE. London: Taylor and Francis, March, 1927.

THE new volume of the fauna of British India, devoted to leeches, is perhaps the most exhaustive and certainly one of the most interesting of the whole series. As there are only forty-six species to be discussed, it is possible in about three hundred pages to go into a great deal of detail about structure, habitat and relationship to human affairs. The editor, Sir Arthur E. Shipley, contributes a readable historical