his reward does not come from the joy of discovering new truths and relations and helping others to discover them, his work is more likely to be an impediment to progress than a useful thing. Taxonomy has suffered too much in the past and fallen too far into disrepute, from the petty work of persons infected with the "mihi itch." Were it not a bibliographical necessity—or so considered—it would be *far* better to not cite the name of an author in conjunction with a scientific name and to forget who proposed it. At least the sooner it is understood, the better off we will be, that we do *not* include the name of the author as part of the formal name of an organism in order to give him "credit," but as a matter of bibliographic record. If it must come to a question of a monument to posterity, there are those who would prefer to leave taxonomic work that would win the approbation of specialists for its sound judgment of phylogenetic relationships, for its scholarliness and helpfulness, even though it never proposed a new name, than to have coined names for a thousand genera and species, each flaunting the describer's name like a waving ensign to dazzle the uninitiated, who may not know how easy and insignificant a thing it is to propose a new name or describe an avowedly new form.

"Taxonomists originate the names, work with them more than other scientists, and in all ways have greater interests in them, and rights over them." As a taxonomist I protest against any such point of view, or against Mr. McAtee thinking that he speaks for "entomological taxonomists almost to a man." The language of zoology is the common property of all zoologists. If the taxonomist allows himself to become so sunk and enmeshed in his own limited group that he can not see, or disregards the needs of the non-specialist in that group for an intelligible nomenclature of it, if he fails to meet the legitimate needs of the general zoologist, of the morphologist, of the ecologist, he may expect that the general workers will ride rather roughly shod over him, for they will not tolerate hampering of their progress in a field that should contribute only cooperation and facility.

The principle of nomina conservanda is sane, sound common sense, when properly applied. It permits us to use the rules of nomenclature up to the point where they serve a useful purpose and to abrogate them just at that point where their further employment would be an unquestioned detriment. The "plenary power" resolution of the Monaco Congress gave the International Commission power to suspend the rules in any given case where in its judgment the strict application of the rules will clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity. It is like the executive clemency principle, which recognizes that in individual cases greater injustice may be done by application of the law and its penalties than by their suspension. But unlike executive clemency it is not subject to political considerations or to individual motives. It must be the unanimous[3] act of an international board of experts—the only representative body of zoologists that exists. There have been very few cases in which this power has been used; and that the commission will be conservative in its future application may be taken for granted. No individual or other body has any recognized right to establish a single nomen conservandum. That this power now exists in the International Commission is a cause for congratulation, a progressive step; a sign that we are to be bound by convention and rules only to the point where they serve a useful purpose, and are not to allow ourselves to become their slaves.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

A CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCIENTIFIC MEN

THE Committee on Social and Economic Welfare of Scientific Men, appointed at the Phoenix meeting of the Southwestern Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, presented the following tentative code of ethics for discussion at the Santa Fe meeting of the division, April 13, 1927. The code was unanimously adopted.

(1) Assume an obligation to do honest work and to impartially present the same to the public, regardless of political, economic or religious prejudice, pressure or tradition.

(2) Exemplify in your conduct and work a courageous regard for the whole people, and not alone some powerful and influential fraction thereof with which you come in close personal contact.

(3) Recognize and assume a dual obligation (a) to do the best possible work in your field, (b) to promote the social and economic welfare of your colleagues and yourself.

(4) Promote the dignity of your profession; avoid malicious criticism of colleagues; cultivate a professional consciousness.

(5) Support laws to insure competency and high standards on the part of scientific-technical men in every field.

(6) Respect yourself and your profession; do not underbid your colleagues; insist that the laborer is worthy of his hire.

(7) Be slow to change jobs and institutions where such a change means a loss of project efficiency, but do not

[3] A two-thirds agreement results in final decision by a special committee appointed by the succeeding International Congress of Zoology.

hesitate to change where the attitude of autocratic superiors, miserably inadequate pay or other conditions conducing to inexcusable inefficiency menace the entire service you are endeavoring to perform.

(8) Investigate before accepting a new position; do not become a candidate for any position from which the previous incumbent was unfairly or wrongly dismissed, or a position in any institution under the ban of dignified organizations of scientific men.

(9) Insist on such a measure of reasonable participation in the determination of policies in your institution as will best promote effective scientific work.

(10) Do not publish the work of colleagues or subordinates without giving full credit where credit is due; authorship should be determined on the basis of the responsibility for the ideas involved, conception and organization of the project, actual field or research work, and actual compilation and writing of the results.

(11) Avoid, alike, hasty and superficial publication, and the holding of real results indefinitely without publication.

(12) Take the public into your confidence; in the end the public pays the bills and has a right to know what is going on.

(13) Interest yourself in human concerns outside your specialty—politics, religion, economics—your obligation to serve the community along these lines is directly proportional to your training and real ability.

The Committee on Social and Economic Welfare of Scientific Men is composed of the following members: Byron Cummings, acting president, University of Arizona, *chairman;* Frank E. E. Germann, University of Colorado, Boulder; G. A. Pearson, Southwestern Forest Experiment Station, Flagstaff; Walter P. Taylor, U. S. Biological Survey, Tucson. The committee will cooperate with the Committee of One Hundred on Scientific Research of the general association in its work for the advancement of research and research workers.

THE WORLD LIST OF SCIENTIFIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

THE World List of Scientific Periodicals published by the Oxford University Press has been completed. The London correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes:

Few as large, and certainly no more arduous, tasks in bibliography have ever been accomplished. The first part of this great undertaking was to compile in alphabetical order a list of all periodicals containing the results of scientific research in existence between the years 1900 and 1921. This was published as volume 1 in 1925. It contains the stupendous number of just over 24,000 separate periodicals. But the list was not complete, notwithstanding the exhaustive search of known catalogues made by Dr. Pollard, then keeper of printed books at the British Museum, and in a supplement issued with volume 2 more than 600 periodicals have been added. The preparation of the second volume necessitated even greater labor and has performed an even more important service to science. The adage "verify your references" is made difficult, sometimes impossible, by the ambiguous abbreviations of titles often given by authors. To overcome these difficulties, several institutions have adopted their own sets of abbreviations. These, however, are for the most part based on a limited series of periodicals, and also differ among themselves. The second volume of the World List consists in the first place of a set of abbreviations consistent and unambiguous for the whole set of nearly 25,000 periodicals. If it could be universally adopted, the temporary inconvenience of changing existing systems would soon be overcome by the permanent advantage to all scientific workers. Even when a reference is given correctly, the seeker after knowledge has to discover where he can find the periodical. To aid in that, twenty-one centers in Great Britain and Ireland have been selected. Symbols have been assigned to the more important libraries in each of these centers, and after the contraction for each periodical is placed the symbol of libraries in which the periodical is to be found. But apart from the direct aid supplied in this way, some remarkable and disconcerting results have appeared, because for a considerable proportion of the periodicals no home in Great Britain and Ireland has been discovered. Even London, with twenty-seven important scientific libraries, misses many publications of high value.

A CENSUS OF WATER-FOWL

A MONTHLY census of water-fowl at selected points throughout the United States is being planned by the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture. It will be an aid in administering the Federal migratory-bird treaty act and the regulations thereunder, for the protection of birds that migrate between the United States and Canada. The undertaking is for the purpose of obtaining accurate information regarding the numbers, distribution and migration of waterfowl throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. The project is important not only to the country as a whole and to each of the states, but also to all organizations that are primarily concerned with the conservation of game, all sportsmen and all others interested in wild fowl or their conservation.

In carrying out this projected work the Biological Survey plans to establish as many volunteer observation stations as possible, particularly in areas where there is great concentration of water-fowl in winter or during migration. In addition, it is desired to gather all possible information regarding the numbers and distribution of our water-fowl during the breeding season. On the selected areas accurate counts or estimates of ducks, geese, swans and coots are to be made throughout the country each month on the same designated dates. When the numbers of birds