

(The older authors used many terms to indicate groups equivalent from a nomenclatorial standpoint to what we now call family and subfamily.)

(c) *Recommendation*. When erecting a subfamily or family, an author should choose the oldest valid contained genus as type, whenever feasible; but no family or subfamily name is to be changed because its type is not the oldest contained genus.

UPON THE CHANGING OF FAMILY NAMES

If a family consists of its type genus and all other genera that any given taxonomist considers should be associated with it, then that type genus may never be changed without nullification of the principle of type and of priority; and since the *name* of the type genus can not be changed, unless it is a homonym, the *name* of the family can not be changed, except in the same case.

If common usage is based on the misapplication of the name of the type genus of a family, then common usage will also be misapplying the family name to a group of genera that actually should not come under it. The restoration of the name of the type genus to its correct sense under the code will involve the application of the family name to an unfamiliar group of genera to which current usage has not applied it, and will leave the group of genera to which it has been incorrectly applied (since its type genus is not one of them under the code) under the necessity of being fitted with a different name and type genus. That is in no sense a change in the family name nor that of its type genus. It is a corrected application of each.

To make this quite clear, let us assume that A-us type of A-idae is currently used as though Y (not an originally included species) were its genotype, and consequently the family A-idae as though it consisted of A-us (A-us y) + B-us + C-us (B-us and C-us being two genera of the same family group as A-us y). But under the code the only originally included species A-us z must be type of A-us, and A-us z is not of the same family group as A-us y, or B-us or C-us. Therefore, under the code A-idae really consists of its type genus A-us (but with species z, not y) + such other genera as belong to the same family group as A-us z, let us say E-us and F-us. This leaves the genus containing A-us y without a name, and the family group A-us y + B-us + C-us without either a name or a type genus.

It follows that the only case in which the name of the type genus of a family can be changed is in case it is a homonym. I, therefore, wish to propose the following modification of Article 5 of the code, in the interests of precision and clarity:

Art. 5. When the name of the type genus of a family or subfamily is found to be a homonym, it must be changed to correspond to the change of the name of its type genus.

J. CHESTER BRADLEY

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH EXPEDITION IN EAST AFRICA

THE trustees of the British Museum announce, according to the *London Times*, that a valuable work in scientific research, which already has added considerably to knowledge of fossil remains, is likely to be checked owing to lack of funds to carry it through.

In 1924 the trustees sent an expedition to the Tendagura district of Tanganyika Territory, which is particularly rich in fossil reptiles, and especially in forms whose nearest representatives are to be found, it is believed, only in North America. Before the war several German expeditions collected in the district much material relating to the dinosaurs, but they left many gaps, and it was to fill those gaps that the British expedition went out under the leadership of W. E. Cutler. Mr. Cutler's assistant was L. S. B. Leakey, an undergraduate who could speak Swahili fluently, but Mr. Leakey had to return after a few months in order to resume his studies at Cambridge. Mr. Cutler carried on without an assistant, but died of malaria at Lindi in August, 1925. F. W. H. Migeod then went out, accompanied by Major T. Deacon, and they returned to England in 1926. Early in 1927 Dr. John Parkinson was appointed leader and Major Deacon went back with him.

As a result of the expedition over 500 cases of specimens have been received at the museum, and much work has been done in mapping out the geology of the Tendagura district. Dr. Parkinson has also visited the site at Koru, in Kenya, where interesting fossils have been found. It is desired that the line extending westwards of Tendagura towards Lake Nyasa should be explored to ascertain whether dinosaurian and other fossil remains occur along the course of the ancient river.

The cost of the expedition has been met partly from the reserve fund which had been accumulated by the trustees and partly from a special fund to which well-wishers subscribed in 1924. The former fund is low and the latter will soon be exhausted; without further help the expedition must be brought to an end next December. About £3,000 is the annual cost of the expedition. This is considerably more than the trustees

of the British Museum can provide for the purpose out of the Parliamentary grant, but they hope that many of those interested in East Africa and in geological research may lend their aid by contributing to the special fund.

AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS FOR ELECTRICAL UNITS

By amendment to the International Convention on Weights and Measures it has been provided that electrical units and standards shall be dealt with through the organizations which have jurisdiction over the fundamental units of measurement. These organizations are the international general conference, the international committee and the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

The seventh General Conference on Weights and Measures, held in 1927, approved the formation of a committee on electricity to advise the permanent International Committee on Weights and Measures on questions relating to electrical standards and systems of measurement. This advisory committee was limited to ten members, including a representative appointed by each of the national laboratories designated by the international committee and additional specialists named individually by that committee. It was provided that a member of the international committee should be chairman of the advisory committee and that a report should be rendered by it not later than March 1, 1929.

The national laboratories designated are the National Physical Laboratory of Great Britain, the Laboratoire Central d'Electricité at Paris, the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt of Germany, the Central Chamber of Weights and Measures of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (Russia), the Electrotechnical Laboratory of the Department of Communications of Japan and the National Bureau of Standards of the United States. Of the four additional members only two appointments have been announced. These are M. Chas.-Éd. Guillaume, director of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, and Professor L. Lombardi, of Rome, Italy.

An American advisory committee has been formed to assist the Bureau of Standards in formulating proposals representing a consensus of the opinions held in this country. The organizations invited to take part and the representatives named as members of this committee are as follows:

National Academy of Sciences—Professor A. E. Kennelly.

American Institute of Electrical Engineers—Professor A. E. Kennelly.

American Physical Society—Professor Henry Crew.

National Electric Light Association—Dr. Clayton H. Sharp (alternate, A. B. Morgan).

Association of Edison Illuminating Companies—Dr. Clayton H. Sharp.

National Electrical Manufacturers Association—W. J. Canada.

American Telephone and Telegraph Co.—A. B. Clark.

The American advisory committee met at the Bureau of Standards on June 16, 1928, together with a number of members of the staff of the bureau. After due consideration of the information available regarding the present status of electrical measurements, the committee unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this committee, in view of improvements which are being made in absolute measurements, electrical standards should in future be based upon the absolute system of units.

2. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this committee, the functions which it is desirable to have the International Bureau of Weights and Measures undertake in connection with the electrical units are as follows: (1) A central secretariat to arrange for systematic exchange of standards and compilation of results of intercomparisons thus made among the national laboratories. (2) A laboratory to which concrete standards representing the results obtained in the different countries may be brought for precise comparisons. (3) A repository for international reference and working standards with the necessary equipment so that other standards may be compared with these standards on request.

Resolutions of similar purport have been under consideration by committees of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for some months, and were finally approved by the board of directors during the Denver meeting, June 25 to 29, 1928.

MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

THE American Public Health Association will hold its fifty-seventh annual meeting at Chicago, Ill., from October 15 to 19, with headquarters at Hotel Stevens. Two other national health organizations, the American Child Health Association and the American Social Hygiene Association, will meet jointly with the American Public Health Association. The first general session will be called Monday evening, when Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, president of the American Public Health Association, will give the presidential address, and either the president of the American Child Health Association or his representative will also speak at this opening meeting. The second general session, scheduled for Wednesday evening, will be devoted to a discussion of the following topics: Our organizations for the care of the sick; which public