The preface describes the place occupied by plant sociology in the biological system. Section one, part 1, deals with the principles underlying the grouping of plants into societies, the commensal life of plants, their struggle for existence and similar matters. The second section gives in detail the methods adopted by the ecologist in the investigation of vegetation. Part 2 of this section treats of the climatic factors, such as heat, light, water, wind, soil (chemical and physical characters), relief, the influence of man and animals and life forms.

The third part considers in detail the development of vegetation complexes, the methods of their study, their classification; while the fourth part in twenty pages describes the geographical distribution of vegetation as to zonation, pioneer and relict groups, regions, provinces, districts, etc. Part 5 is devoted to the distribution and arrangement of the plant associations (association systems). The photographs, graphs and line drawings used to illustrate the book are new and well chosen.

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REPORTS

VITAMIN B TERMINOLOGY

IN SCIENCE of August 31, 1928 (Vol. 68, No. 1757, pages 206–209) was published a summary of the various proposed systems of vitamin B terminology then under consideration by the committee on vitamin B nomenclature of the American Society of Biological Chemists.

The various proposed systems of terminology eventually narrowed down to three, which seemed in the minds of the committee to be most likely to satisfy the majority of workers in the field of vitamin research.

Summarized briefly, the three systems of terminology were as follows:

(1) *The British suggestions.* The British investigators recommended, as a temporary expedient, that the letter "B" be used to designate the complex, "B_1" to identify the heat-labile factor, and "B_2" to refer to the heat-stable factor or factors.

(2) *The Sherman suggestions.* Dr. Sherman suggested that the term "B" be used to refer to the complex with the hope that it would eventually receive "honorable retirement" and that the letters "F" and "G" be used in a permanent system of nomenclature, in place of "B_1" and "B_2," respectively, which had been adopted as temporary terms by British workers.

(3) *The McCollum suggestions.* Dr. McCollum, for reasons enumerated in the former committee report, suggested that the term "B" be retained but restricted to refer to the heat-labile factor, and that Sherman's "G" be used to designate the more heat-stable factor.

After considerable correspondence the committee have voted to make the following recommendations:

(1) That the term "Bios," as suggested by the British workers, be retained to denote the factor or factors encouraging the rapid growth of yeast cells.

(2) That the term "B" be restricted to designate the more heat-labile (antineuritic) factor.

(3) That the term "G" be used to denote the more heat-stable, water-soluble, dietary factor, called the P–P (pellagra-preventive) factor by Goldberger and associates, and which also has to do with maintenance and growth.

(4) That the naming of newly discovered dietary factors, by other than descriptive terms, should be discouraged until their identity is established beyond question.

(5) That a committee on vitamin nomenclature be appointed by the American Society of Biological Chemists and that this committee, in cooperation with the British committee and similar committees on the continent, endeavor to act as a clearing-house for questions in vitamin terminology, and that this committee be empowered to name new factors when their identity is established.

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SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

AN IMPROVED METHOD FOR SEALING MICROSCOPIC MOUNTS

THE preparation of biological material as permanent microscopic mounts in certain fluid media is of very general interest. None is more desirous of such permanence than the taxonomist, to whom microscopic characters are of prime importance. The slow and laborious processes commonly used are so unsatisfactory that the writer feels justified in presenting a new method thought to possess certain advantages. This method is described after a short review of some current practices. The subject is considered from the viewpoint of the herbarium mycologist but has also a more general application.

A proper comparison of any specimens in a mycological herbarium requires detailed microscopic ex-