and the "Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien," although admittedly out of date in many particulars, are still most widely used as general authorities. The number of genera of seed-bearing plants according to the former is about 8,300; according to the latter, about 9,700. Nearly 8,000 names are common to these two works, thus constituting a substantial beginning toward a very widely acceptable list of generic names, that is, such as have been used for more than fifty years.

Seeking to follow the general suggestions received from other botanical institutions, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is listing these 8,000 genera by families. Under each are added the names as to which there are nomenclatural or taxonomic differences. The usage or preference of a number of institutions as to families and the most frequently used genera are included. The whole will make a pamphlet of hardly forty pages: thus corrections can readily be made in the direction of the needed international list of genera.

It is expected that many disputed points as to nomenclature will be decided at the Cambridge congress in 1930. But taxonomic differences are many times more numerous than nomenclatural ones. How can taxonomic usage be made more nearly uniform?

We believe that scientific and practical requirements may be most nearly harmonized if a list of genera, with the strength of a recommendation, be added as an appendix to the International Rules of Nomenclature, somewhat as follows:

Article 20. Recommendation I*ter*. For botanic gardens, for horticultural purposes, for the international exchange of seeds and for other practical uses, a complete list of families and genera of vascular plants is provided, as of 1931. Nomenclatural matters of this list are decided by the International Committee of Nomenclature. Taxonomic matters are decided by a group of institutions designated by the congress. Revised lists will appear at intervals until 1940, and thereafter every ten years. This list is not intended to interfere with the nomenclature of taxonomic research publications.

ALFRED GUNDERSEN
BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

GREGOR MENDEL

GREGOR MENDEL was born in Neu-Titschein, Czecho-Slovakia. Certain men of science in Czecho-Slovakia, particularly in his native province, are seeking to establish a monument to him. The total amount needed is $3,000 and of this half has been raised. The committee hopes that geneticists in the United States and philanthropists who may be interested thus to participate in honoring Mendel would contribute about $1,000 to the deficit. The treasurer of the fund is Franz H. Nitsch, official director of the Neu-Titschein Savings Bank. Funds may be sent to him directly or, if preferred, to the undersigned, who has been asked to collect funds in the United States.

It has seemed unnecessary to add anything concerning the great, well known and deeply appreciated part that Mendel has played in the advancement of biological science.

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SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

ANOTHER SYNTHETIC RESIN USEFUL IN MICROSCOPY

AN account was published in SCIENCE[1] in 1927 in which was given some of the properties of a synthetic resin which appeared to be useful in certain classes of microscopic mounting. This substance was derived from aniline and possessed a strong yellow color. The only suitable solvent known was aniline, and because of the comparatively high temperature required to evaporate the liquid in a reasonable time the resin appears to be unsuited to much work in biology, although these properties in no way detract from its usefulness in the mounting of fossil diatoms for which it was originally made and recommended. This resin was listed as A. F. S. in my protracted series of experiments on mounting media.

[1] Hanna, SCIENCE, 65, 1927, No. 1672, pp. 41–42; No. 1693, pp. 575–576.

It now seems fitting to announce another synthetic product having very different properties. This is a derivative of the simple hydrocarbon, naphthalene; it is soluble in xylol, benzol, toluol, and many other organic solvents, but not in water or alcohol. No color can be detected in slides mounted with this material, and in large bulk it has but a faint straw color—less than in the same quantity of Canada balsam. The resin has been noted as *hyrax*.

Test slides made with this resin have not changed in color or other characters in eighteen months' exposure, and nothing has appeared to indicate that they are not permanent. The material stands an exceedingly high temperature without decomposing or discoloring, and the ordinary oven treatment to which balsam mounts are subjected quickly removes the solvent because of the absence of difficultly volatile substances such as the turpenes in balsam.