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VOL. 73

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1931

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal
Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

IS AN INTERNATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE PRACTICABLE?¹

By Dr. C. W. STILES

MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

AFTER an experience of about forty years in an attempt to standardize a code of international rules to govern zoological nomenclature, it will be well for zoologists to consider briefly the outstanding difficulties which at one time or another have inhibited the degree of success which it was hoped would attend the undertaking. Possibly a short review of the subject will indicate whether or not it is worth while to continue the effort.

At the First International Zoological Congress (Paris, 1889) R. Blanchard presented a proposed code of international rules, prepared by himself, after careful consideration of the world's literature on the subject, and naturally he was influenced to no slight

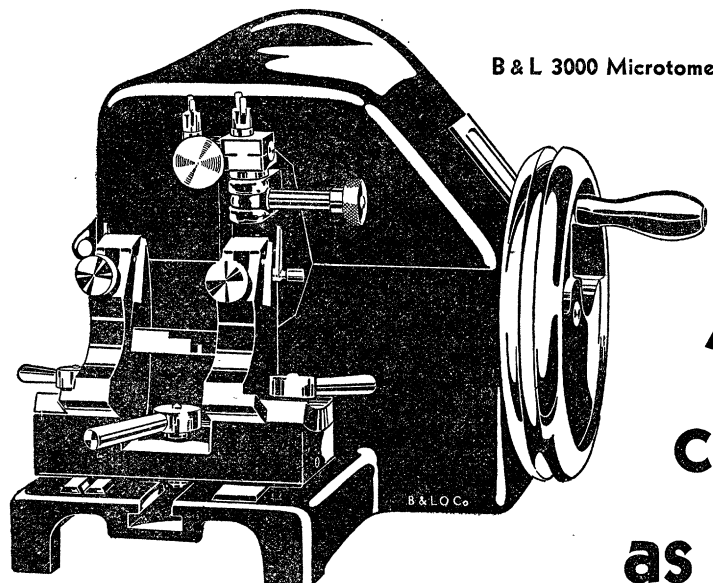
¹ Presented before the Biological Society of Washington, December 13, 1930.

degree by the existing French rules. This draft was discussed by the First and Second Congresses (Paris, 1889, and Moscow, 1892) and was formally adopted.

In 1894, the Deutsche Zoologische Gesellschaft adopted an independent code, thereby (at least inferentially) declining adherence to the international code.

In 1895, F. E. Schulze (Berlin, Germany) raised the point at the Third Congress (Leyden), that the Paris-Moscow code was essentially a French production, and he proposed the appointment of an international commission to study all the existing rules with a view to obtaining a really international code.

This proposition produced considerable bitter feeling which threatened to send the Third Congress on the rocks. Oil was poured on the troubled waters,



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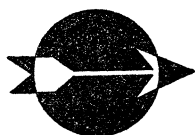
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