in need of better definition? At the Cleveland meeting "marsh" and "swamp" were mentioned as possible examples. Although, like many other words useful in ecology, these two often have very close resemblance (or even synonymy) in popular usage, it is possible that they could be made to indicate definite differences in practice of ecologists. The committee would like to have a list of such terms as are known to you, together with such comment as you care to make.

(2) Should the society encourage plant ecologists, animal ecologists, agronomists and other limited groups to formulate their own terminology and definitions, or should the society endeavor to help standardize ecological concepts to embrace the whole field so that all specialists, so long as their point of view is ecological, could understand all the rest?

(3) Can you suggest terms, or some usage of terms, which will help one to express the distinction between waxing and waning phases of environmental influences; *e.g.*, those involved in increasing or decreasing degrees of heat?

The committee is agreed, and probably most members of the society concur, that it is not practicable or desirable to attempt to force improvement by legislation, but it does seem possible that improvement may follow responsible suggestions and formal recommendations if they can be offered in a form suited to existing needs.

Submitted by the Committee on Nomenclature of the Ecological Society of America.

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EXHIBIT OF SPECIMENS OF HIMALAYAN FLORA AT THE ROERICH MUSEUM

AN exhibition of fifty mounted botanical sheets, representing examples of the Himalayan flora, has been opened at Urusvati, Himalayan Research Institute of Roerich Museum in New York City. The loan is part of a herbarium of 3,800 specimens presented to the New York Botanical Garden by the Himalayan Research Institute Headquarters in India, and has been identified personally by Dr. E. D. Merrill, director-in-chief.

The scientific value of the herbarium collections assembled by the institute, as well as the purpose of the collections, are significant. Bio-chemical and cancer research laboratories are now being built at the headquarters of the institute in the Himalayas for their investigation from a medicinal viewpoint. In this connection, also, a careful survey is being made of the Tibetan pharmacopoeia and medicinal literature. Over two hundred items, including native drugs and medicinal herbs, have already been secured, and valuable medicinal texts on therapy and pharmacology, including the *rGyud-bshi* and a number of *gter-ma* or "hidden" books on the Tibetan medicines, have been obtained. The Tibetan pharmacopoeia is known to be particularly rich, and to have in its possession, since time immemorial, remedies against cancer and tuberculosis which are said to have been used with success. It is the purpose of the institute to investigate these remedies.

The present exhibit at the Roerich Museum includes specimens of the Himalayan flora, which is a very diversified and interesting one, containing many species of marked beauty. Flowering plants, ferns and fern allies, hepatics, lichens and fungi are among the specimens represented. They were secured at altitudes ranging from 5–12,000 ft. elevations to the perpetual snowpeaks of Tibet, during the botanical-zoological expeditions in 1929–1931 under Dr. Walter Koelz, of the staff of the institute.

The most recent explorations of Dr. Koelz, during the summer of 1931, have led him into inmost Asia, through Lahul, the Indus Valley and Ladak; 26 mountain passes, some of them 18,000 to 19,000 feet, were crossed, and the expedition led past the great salt lakes of Tibet, one of them, the Pangong La, being 90 miles in length. Four months were consumed by the journey. According to a preliminary report by Dr. Koelz, sent by Dr. George Roerich, director of the Himalayan Research Institute, to the Roerich Museum in New York, 1,000 plant numbers (some 15,000 specimens) were obtained, and 25 big game animals—including ibex, napo, gazelle, kiang, ovis ammon, shapu, etc.—as well as a number of smaller mammals, were also collected. The report continues: "Much of the area visited has not been biologically explored previously, and in the area that has been studied ornithologically, the expedition's work has added new records to the bird fauna. None of the territory explored is under 9,500 ft. and much over 14,000 ft. . . . The vegetation is striking. Barley ripens at 15,000 ft. in places, and exquisitely fragrant, showy flowers abound on the peaks to elevations of 18,000 and 19,000 ft.; these are not dwarfed, stunted plants such as one usually finds in alpine zones, but often a foot or two in height."

THE INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

PROFESSOR C. F. MARVIN, chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, has returned from Europe where he attended meetings of the International Meteorological