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

Organization at Locarno, Switzerland, and also the fourth general conference at Geneva, Switzerland, of the advisory and technical committee on communication and transit of the League of Nations, involving consideration and discussion of the projected matter of the reform of the calendar.

According to an account in the *Official Record* the matter of first importance in connection with the meeting at Locarno was the fact that the so-called executive council, consisting of representatives of five nations, one of these representatives being the president of the International Meteorological Organization, held its first meeting after it was created at the conference of directors at Copenhagen in 1929. This was, therefore, its organization meeting. In addition to deciding upon necessary rules and regulations for accomplishing the work of the council, decisions were reached in regard to the budget and funds for the maintenance of the office of the secretariat during the forthcoming year and the projects tentatively under way were approved. With some modifications these rules and regulations were subsequently approved by the International Meteorological Committee, and they have now become the permanent guide for this new feature of the work of the International Meteorological Organization.

The major part of the sessions of the committee was devoted to the reading of reports by the president of the Upper Air Commission, which held its meeting in Madrid recently, and the president of the Polar Year Commission, following the meeting of that and some other commissions at Innsbruck, Austria, in September. The committee devoted considerable time to discussion of the numerous resolutions that resulted from the reports mentioned, and these resolutions, with such modifications as were deemed necessary, were approved or indorsed by the International Committee.

Also meetings were held of the subcommission on organization of the meteorological work of the oceans, more particularly with reference to the ship report work from selected ships on the North Atlantic. Some of the difficulties in connection with the reception and distribution of reports were discussed, and agreements were reached with a view to realizing more uniform and better and more valuable service in the future. Professor Marvin reports that:

> It is important to mention in this connection that almost coincidentally with these meetings at Locarno, in connection with ship reports from the oceans, an international conference of radio-marine organizations was held in New York, at which particular consideration was given to the agreement among all radio organizations to transmit meteorological reports from ships at sea free of cost for what is called the "ship tax," in view of the important benefits that navigation, including radio interests, receive from the free dissemination by meteorological services of forecasts, warnings and important meteorological information.

Perhaps one of the most important actions taken at the Locarno meeting was the decision that, notwithstanding the difficulty confronting the various nations at the present time, the program of intensive observational work which had been previously planned and provided for by nearly all nations for the so-called polar year, beginning with August, 1932, and extending to August, 1933, should be carried through, although it was recognized that the critical situation might make it impracticable to carry out all the features of the program originally contemplated.

THE FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHYSIOLOGY

The Fourteenth International Congress of Physiology will be held at Rome from August 29 to September 3, 1932. The officers of the congress are Professor Filippo Bottazzi, professor of physiology in the University of Naples, *president;* Professor G. Quagliariello, of the Institute of Chemical Biology at Naples, and Professor S. Visco, of the Institute of General Physiology at Rome, *secretaries.*

The international committee is composed of Filippo Bottazzi, Naples, who is organizing the congress; Archibald W. Hill, London; Otto Frank, Munich; William H. Howell, Baltimore; John E. Johansson, Stockholm; Louis Lapicque, Paris; I. P. Pawlow, Leningrad.

The meetings will be held in the Institutes of Physics, Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Botany and General Physiology of the Royal University of Rome. These institutes are within short distances of one another, in Via Panisperna 89A, and in Via Milano 71 and 75. The membership fee is 100 lire.

During the congress, besides visits to the various museums in Rome, to the Roman Forum, to the Palatine, etc., members may take part in free trips that have been provided to either Villa Adriana and Villa d'Este, or Ostia-Scavi and Ostia-Lido. After the congress, a trip to Naples with a visit to the Zoological Station, and free excursions by registered members to one of the following places will be arranged: Campi Flegrev (Solfatara) and Curma; Vesuvius and Pompeii; Herculanum and Paestum. Those will be considered registered who have remitted the membership fee, to the following address: Presidente del Comitato organizzatore del XIV Congresso Internazionale Fisiologia, S. Andrea delle Dame, 21, Napoli (Italy).

Since a large attendance is anticipated it is necessary that each member should present one paper only. Papers not read can be published in the volume of the proceedings. Abstracts of the papers in one of the four official languages (English, French, German,