

employed, ranging between 2 and 4 years of age, show an especially large number who are underweight. In children 5 and 6 years old, the differences are not so marked.

Nature reports that at a recent meeting of the Industrial Advisory Committee of the Ross Institute, London, reports were received of the over-seas activities of the institute. Seven research centers in Assam and northern Bengal have been opened, and anti-malarial work and the testing of new drugs for the treatment of malaria have been pursued there and in Rhodesia and East and South Africa. In the Assam tea gardens, anti-malarial work has resulted in much improved health, for in 1930 among a population of

13,248 the admissions to hospital were 23,226, but in 1932 with a slightly larger population the admissions were reduced to 15,141. A standard oil mixture for killing mosquito larvae has been devised in conjunction with the Burma-Shell group. The health among lead miners in Yugoslavia was investigated and a health scheme was formulated and is now in operation. At the conclusion of the proceedings, Mr. Still and Sir Malcolm Watson addressed the meeting on the subject of yellow fever. Now that travel by aeroplane is so rapid, the grave danger that infection may be carried from the yellow fever zone in West Africa to East Africa and Asia, which would be followed with disastrous consequences, was emphasized.

DISCUSSION

ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

PROFESSOR A. S. PEARSE, of Duke University, has recently contributed to *SCIENCE*¹ a number of thought-provoking reviews of recent text-books of zoology.

Professor Pearse makes, rather dogmatically, two statements in his reviews that to the taxonomist stand out as though they were printed in red ink and, though they are of distinctly minor importance, are as startlingly incongruent with the established formalities of nomenclature as red ink would be on a page of *SCIENCE*.

Professor Pearse makes the statement that "the scientific name of an animal consists of the genus, species and the name of the author."² (The italics are Professor Pearse's). Had Professor Pearse said that the name of the author should be *appended* to the scientific name of an animal at least once in the publication using the name, one could agree with him, and might even walk with the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and add that the date of the proposal or some other clue to the original use of the name might also appear to advantage.³

Article 2 of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature states that "the scientific designation of animals is uninomial for subgenera and all higher groups, binomial for species, and trinomial for sub-species." Article 22 reads in part as follows (there is no need of quoting it in full): "If it is desired to cite the author's name, this should follow the scientific name without interposition of any mark of punctuation;—"⁴ If the author's name is a *part* of the scientific name, as Professor Pearse contends, how is it

possible for it to *follow* the scientific name? How can the part follow the whole?

Professor Pearse at another place⁵ makes the following comment: "Evidently the writer disapproves of the modern tendency to begin even generic names with small letters, —" Let us refer to the Code. Article 8 reads: "A generic name must consist of a single word, simple or compound, written with a capital initial letter—."

Of course, a word may be used in more than one sense. The word *felis*, for instance, may be used as a formal scientific name, in which case it is properly capitalized. Also it may be used as a common noun, just as is its English equivalent, *cat*. In the latter usage it is not capitalized. Can it be this that Professor Pearse means? If so, he fails to make himself clear and has no need to appeal to a non-existent "modern tendency" for support of what has always been good usage.

Any tendency, however trivial, to flout the International Rules, the only hope we have for ultimate stability in zoological nomenclature, should bring a vigorous protest, even though the protestee is one as eminent and respected as Professor Pearse. Indeed, the more eminent the offender, the more necessary the protest.

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THE INVOLVED GENETICS OF FISH

THE recent paper by Hubbs and Hubbs on "Apparent Parthenogenesis in Nature, in a Form of Fish of Hybrid Origin"¹ is of great interest to any one concerned with the extremely puzzling phenomena of ichthyological genetics. The matter is puzzling for the reason that although some crosses behave in normal Mendelian fashion, other crosses, like those

¹ *SCIENCE*, n. s., 77: 169-172.

² *Loc. cit.*, p. 170, first paragraph.

³ See resolution of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at Budapest, 1927, as published in U. S. Public Health Service, Public Health Reports, Oct. 28, 1927, pp. 2639-2640.

⁴ International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature; Proc. Biological Society of Washington, volume 39, pp. 75-104.

⁵ *Loc. cit.*, p. 170, second column, first paragraph.

¹ *SCIENCE*, n. s., 76: 628. 1932.