

geneticists to standardize the word as promptly as possible by conforming to the proper spelling and pronunciation, *äl-lële'*. The word comes into English by way of the German "*Allel*" (pronounced *äl-läil'*) the accent on the second syllable being appropriate only if the vowel in that syllable be long, as it is in the German and should be in the English. The Greek from which the word is ultimately derived is in harmony with this form, for *'αλλήλων* (= of one another, from *'αλλος*, other) has the long *ē* (eta) and the accent on the second syllable.

The normal accent for an English substantive with the spelling "*allel*" would be on the first syllable, *äl'lële* (*cf.* *Ma'bel*, *reb'el*, etc.). To throw the accent on the second syllable while retaining the short sound of the vowel in that syllable would require the addition of another *l* or *le* (*cf.* *rebellious*). It is not difficult to find exceptions to these rules, in English, but there is no good reason for *making* exceptions when new words are being launched, and less reason for converting a word which has been used initially in its correct form, to a form which contravenes the normal rules of orthography.

The words "*gene*" and "*clone*" have finally won their way to uniform usage, and it is to be hoped that "*allele*" will reach the same status of uniformity and philological correctness with as little delay as possible. The same principles are involved in all three words.

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GERMAN PERIODICALS AGAIN

As the chairman of the American Library Association committee on German periodicals the undersigned spent ten days in Germany in May conferring with a committee of the *Börsenverein* and with various German officials. As a result of these conversations, he was authorized to make the following statement (translated):

I am authorized to make the following statement:

A high authority in the German government has informed me that it is the present policy of the German government to reduce substantially the export prices of books and periodicals in order to ameliorate in so far as possible the difficulties which foreign libraries have experienced through depressed currencies in the procuring of German literature. The definite plan and methods will be made known before June 20, 1935.

On June 20 a cable was received from Dr. Hoevel of the Propaganda Ministerium which reads as follows (translated):

"The foreign prices of German books and periodicals for libraries will be reduced 25 per cent. effective about August first, 1935.—Doctor Hoevel."

The following resolution was adopted by the American Library Association at the closing meeting on June 29:

RESOLVED:

... Be it further resolved that this Association endorse the resolution passed by the College and Reference Section and express to the German government its appreciation of the action of the government in effecting a reduction of 25% in the export prices of books and periodicals for libraries. Be it further resolved, that the Secretary be instructed to inform the German government of this action.

The basis of the disagreement between American libraries and German publishers rests upon the method of publication in Germany, which differs from that of most other countries. The publication of scientific books and periodicals generally is endowed to some extent through societies and through university presses. The attempts of the Engineering Societies, the American Mathematical Society, the British chemical societies and other organizations to raise funds for the endowment of scientific publications are well known. There are no endowments left in Germany owing to the depreciation of the currency a number of years ago. Therefore, the publication of scientific books and periodicals must be either self-supporting or subsidized by the government.

Apparently the German government recognizes the difficulties in the situation. The final solution of the problems caused by present-day difficulties in international trade in general and by two divergent methods of scientific publishing in particular is neither simple nor clear, but at least some very decided progress has been made, thanks to this friendly action of the German government.

CHARLES H. BROWN

*Chairman A. L. A. Committee on
German Periodicals*

IOWA STATE COLLEGE LIBRARY

THE BRITISH GUIANA EXPEDITION

WE are preparing to sail to conduct important ethnological and archeological research among the isolated aborigines of the remote Rupununi District of British Guiana before the impending colonization of the region, by the Colonial Government, destroys forever these primitive American Indian cultures.

This is a fully accredited scientific expedition sanctioned by the U. S. Department of State and authorized by the British Guiana Government.

Owing to the character of the work we shall operate radially from a comfortably established Base Camp and Field Laboratory some four hundred miles in the interior and I should like to extend an invitation through the pages of *SCIENCE* to qualified students in