REPORTS

COMMITTEE ON ANATOMICAL NOMENCLATURE

DURING the interval between the two world wars serious efforts were made to secure international revision of anatomical nomenclature. The Basle Nomina Anatomica, which was in official use in the Germanic countries, in Japan and in the United States, obviously required revision. This was undertaken by the Anatomische Gesellschaft, and a somewhat radical revision known as the NK and finally as NA was adopted for use in Germany. Meanwhile, the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland adopted its own revised nomenclature in English (BR), based largely on the old British tradition and very different from the BNA and NA. In the hope of avoiding further national separatism, an international commission on nomenclature was set up in 1936. This commission adopted the NA system as a basis for revision and requested suggestions for its work, which was to be considered for adoption at an International Congress of Anatomists in 1939 or 1940.

A committee of the American Association of Anatomists, under the chairmanship of Professor C. M. Jackson, gave careful consideration to this question for three years, and finally in 1937 submitted to the International Commission detailed proposals for a new nomenclature. These proposals took the form, as required, of suggestions for improvement of the NA; but they were based upon earnest consideration of both the German and British proposals as well as of the American view-point, and it was hoped that the American revision would help toward a truly international agreement. The American committee carefully avoided setting up this revision as a national standard, prior to international consideration, as unfortunately the British and Germans had done. Its report was therefore never published and exists only in manuscript.

The outbreak of war in 1939 stopped all such international efforts. Meanwhile the Germans and Japanese have adopted the NA; the British have adopted the BR; in Latin countries various vernacular nomenclatures largely based on the French tradition are still in use; and the United States anatomists alone continue officially using the BNA.

The present is hardly the time to dream of international action toward preventing this chaos in nomenclature; but it seems a clear duty that the American Association of Anatomists shall do what it can to preserve the valuable work of its committee for future use. It should be prepared to guide its own members, and others in our country who use anatomical terminology, through this unsettled time; and to help and, if necessary, lead in re-establishing an international nomenclature as soon as possible.

To that end the association, at its meeting in 1942, appointed George W. Corner chairman of its Committee on Anatomical Nomenclature to succeed C. M. Jackson, retired, with authority to reconstitute the committee. This has been done as indicated below.

All who are interested in these problems are invited to communicate with the committee.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE ANTIGENIC PROPERTIES OF NATIVE AND REGENERATED HORSE SERUM ALBUMIN[1]

THE denaturation of serum proteins by such organic compounds as urea, or guanidine hydrochloride, is a pseudo-reversible reaction. If horse serum is denatured by concentrated urea solutions, and urea removed by dialysis, a water-soluble protein can be recovered which resembles the original, native protein in molecular size and shape, but differs from it in conditions of crystallization and yield,[2] in electrophoretic mobility on the alkaline side of the isoelectric point,[3] and in its response to the proteolytic action of trypsin.[4] This indicates that the apparently reversibly denatured, or "regenerated" protein, although akin to the native in size, shape and surface properties, is devoid of the specific intrinsic structure of the latter and, therefore, in a denatured state.[5]

Investigation of the immunological properties of native and regenerated serum albumin led to the discovery of fundamental differences in the antigenic

[1] This work was supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and by the Lederle Laboratories, Inc.

[2] H. Neurath, G. R. Cooper and J. O. Erickson, *Jour. Biol. Chem.*, 142: 249, 1942.

[3] D. G. Sharp, G. R. Cooper, J. O. Erickson and H. Neurath, *Jour. Biol. Chem.*, in press.

[4] F. Bernheim, H. Neurath and J. O. Erickson, *Jour. Biol. Chem.*, in press.

[5] H. Neurath, G. R. Cooper and J. O. Erickson, *Jour. Phys. Chem.*, 46: 203, 1942.