Generic names have been used as common nouns by bacteriologists from the earliest days of that science, as is witnessed by the ordinary use of such words as "bacteria," "bacilli," "micrococci," "streptococci"; and no one has ever raised any serious objection to this usage. Recently, however, a tendency has appeared in bacteriological literature which is more open to question. The following sentence is an illustration of this undesirable usage: "none of the rhizobia are able to grow in this medium except *Rhizobium meliloti.*" In this sentence it is obvious that "rhizobia" is not used in the sense of "specimens" or even "individuals of the genus *Rhizobium,*" but rather to mean "species (pl.) of *Rhizobium.*" In other words, the mistake is made of allowing the singular, "rhizobium," to stand for a species, not for an individual. This is the practice to which we take exception. The four terms mentioned in the first sentence of this paragraph are rarely, if ever, so used.

It is quite possible that this practice is confined to bacteriology. Certainly none of the instances mentioned by Dr. Mast and Dr. Beers represent nouns used in the above sense. In any event it seems well to call the matter to the attention of those interested in nomenclature; and to explain our reason for opposing the occasional misuse of bacterial generic names as common nouns.

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ANOTHER MOULD WITH ANTI-BACTERIAL ABILITY[1]

SEARCHING for new anti-bacterial substances among by-products of the growth of *Fungi Imperfecti* we have noticed that one culture of *Aspergillus* sp. of the *Candidus* group gave a positive reaction for the presence of citrinin. The substance isolated in crystalline form showed the same properties as those described by Hetherington and Raistrick.[2] Its bacteriostatic properties and selective action on Gram-positive bacteria further indicate the similarity to citrinin.

Comparing the data published by Oxford[3] on the bacteriostatic power of citrinin it appears that our substance in purified or crude state is somewhat stronger. Thus growth of *Staphylococcus aureus,* in nutrient or 1 per cent. glucose broth, was completely inhibited in dilution 1:64,000; *Staph. albus* 1:128,000; *B. mycoides* 1:128,000. Partial inhibition (about 50 per cent. opacity) was shown in 1:1,024,000 dilution for all above-mentioned organisms. In lower dilutions (1:8,000 or 125γ per ml) it showed bactericidal ability in the case of *Staph. aureus* and *albus.* Furthermore, autoclaving of the serial dilutions for 30 minutes at 15 pounds pressure did not reduce the bacteriostatic power of the substance.

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A METEORITE FROM VERMONT

THE first meteorite to be recorded from Vermont was discovered by the writer on Whitcomb Hill in the town of Strafford, Vermont, in August, 1942, while engaged in geological field work. It was not seen to fall but lay upon the surface of the ground when found.

The specimen is an iron meteorite weighing five pounds and two ounces. Its shape is triangular, much like that of a flatiron, having a maximum length and width of 5.5 inches and 4 inches, respectively, and a thickness of 2.5 inches. The characteristic Widmanstätten figures were brought out microscopically on a polished surface by etching with a dilute solution of nitric acid. The weathered surface is a dark, rusty brown.

The meteorite has been named the South Strafford meteorite because of the nearness of this village to the place of discovery. Further work on this meteorite is in progress.

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THE TOOLS OF SCIENCE AND THE WAR INDUSTRY

THE services that science can render to the war effort are of many kinds. The means for contributing some are readily at hand, while the means for contributing others must be created. Stanford University has had the privilege of assisting in an enterprise of the latter class that deserves to be reported as a possible source of ideas applicable in other instances. The experience is especially instructive as evidence of what can be accomplished through cooperation of a number of unrelated agencies working toward a common goal that no one of the agencies could have attained by itself.

An inquiry initiated at Stanford last spring into opportunities for contribution of statisticians to the war effort led to a suggestion from Dr. W. Edwards Deming, that a short course be offered to promote the adoption of recently developed statistical methods of quality control, and improved methods of sampling for tests of quality, in West Coast war industries. The suggestion posed two problems: that of providing for the requisite instruction, and that of bringing to

[1] Contribution No. 157 (Journal Series).
[2] A. C. Hetherington and H. Raistrick. *Phil. Trans. Royal Soc. of London,* Series B, 220: 269–295. 1931.
[3] A. E. Oxford. *Chem. Ind.,* 61: 48–51. 1942.