have made it an indispensable adjunct to every biological department. Individual workers are especially concerned with only a part of the whole field, however, and for them the possibility of subscribing to one or more sections has been a great advantage. For most of us, even a section is rather large, and some means of collecting references to papers in a narrower field is essential. This is usually accomplished by a card file of some sort. For a number of years the present writer has been clipping from two of the sections the abstracts in his own field of interest, and pasting them in the upper left corner of 5 x 8 cards. This provides an easily prepared and legible means of filing and a considerable space for further notes in each paper. Doubtless other workers are using the journal in a similar way. Often, of course, two abstracts which are desired will occur on opposite sides of the same sheet, making it impossible to clip both of them and requiring the copying of one. It is therefore fortunate that *Biological Abstracts* is now offering for workers who use the sections in this way *two* copies of any section at a much reduced rate, which will make it possible to clip abstracts regardless of their location. Many biologists will doubtless take advantage of this offer of a convenient and relatively cheap means of building their individual bibliographical files.

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THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

AT the request of the Quartermaster General of the United States Army, the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council has organized a Committee on Food Composition, Dr. C. A. Elvehjem, *Chairman,* to collect, coordinate and appraise food composition data. The committee is to act as the repository and point of dissemination for authentic data on all foods being used or considered for use by all branches of the Military Services.

Proximate and mineral composition as well as analyses for vitamins A, C, thiamine, riboflavin and niacin are required as a basis for nutritional evaluation of these foods. Data on new products, processed foods and dehydrated meats, fruits and vegetables especially are needed.

The committee has already enlisted the cooperation of Federal and State laboratories throughout the country. However, it is also aware that a great wealth of food composition data has been accumulated in the course of research and routine analyses by industrial laboratories.

It is the purpose of this communication to appeal to these laboratories of the food industries to make their data active in the war effort. The committee assures that data received for this purpose will be handled with such reservations as should be exercised in the official utilization of this information by the Armed Services only.

Please address Dr. Paul L. Pavcek, Secretary, Committee on Food Composition, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ON THE MAINTENANCE OF PURE GENETIC STRAINS

DURING the past year, the Committee on the Maintenance of Pure Genetic Strains, National Research Council, has held two meetings for the purpose of preparing a list of the more important mutant strains and inbred lines. Information gathered thus far can be summarized as follows.

"Drosophila Information Service," prepared by Dr. M. Demerec and issued by the Carnegie Institution of Washington at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York, lists 60 species, 2,000 different stocks and 93 laboratories throughout the world where stocks are maintained.

Mouse Genetic News, edited by Dr. George D. Snell and issued by the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory at Bar Harbor, Maine, lists 70 inbred strains of mice and 40 laboratories in the United States where stocks are maintained.

Dr. C. C. Little, the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, has listed a few mutant and inbred strains of guinea-pigs, rabbits and rats, together with institutions in which they are being maintained.

Dr. Walter Landauer, Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station, the University of Connecticut, has prepared a list of poultry and pigeons which includes 47 or more inbred strains of fowl, 5 of turkeys, 16 inbred or mutant strains of pigeons and 17 institutions in the United States where stocks are maintained.

Dr. Myron Gordon, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, is assembling a list of cold-blooded vertebrates which includes 7 species of Xiphophorini with 28 characters and several species and genera of fish maintained in at least 10 institutions.

Dr. P. W. Whiting, Zoological Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania, is preparing a list of insects other than Drosophila which include Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, 3 species of Diptera with mutant types, *Apis mellifica* with mutant types, *Habrobracon juglandis* with mutant types, and 6 institutions in which one or more stocks are maintained.

L. T. WEBSTER,
Chairman

ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH