

mists replacing the ill-formed word "genotype" by the correctly formed "generitype." This course will not only avoid a needless conflict of terms, but actually will give us a more satisfactory word.

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TRANSLITERATION OF RUSSIAN NAMES

CONTRIBUTORS to the recent correspondence on the transliteration of Russian names appearing in *SCIENCE*, Vol. 97, p. 243; Vol. 98, pp. 132, 133, seem to be unaware of the fact that the Russian Academy of Sciences had already adopted a system of transliteration as far back as 1906. This Latin transcription of Russian names—which is based on the Czech alphabet—is still being used in the publications of the academy.

In view of this, it would be advisable (as I have already pointed out more than twenty years ago, in *Nature*, Vol. 110, 1922, p. 279) for all countries to conform to the rules already set forth by the Russian Academy, instead of attempting to devise their own systems. This is desirable because, in the event of Russia adopting the Latin alphabet for general use,

the task of formulating the rules will probably be entrusted to this institution, as the highest authority in the country.

The original rules were reproduced in *Nature* of May 14, 1908, p. 42. As they might not be accessible at present and as they do not comply with the new orthography introduced about twenty-five years ago, I have set forth the revised transliteration, which is as follows:

А, а = a	Л, л = l	Ц, ц = c
Б, б = b	М, м = m	Ч, ч = č
В, в = v	Н, н = n	Ш, ш = š
Г, г = g	О, о = o	Щ, щ = šč
Д, д = d	П, п = p	Ъ, ъ = ' (hard)
Е, е = e, je	Р, р = r	Ы, ы = y
Ж, ж = ž	С, с = s	Ь, ь = j (soft)
З, з = z	Т, т = t	Э, э = e
И, и = i	У, у = u	Ю, ю = ju
Й, й = j	Ф, ф = f	Я, я = ja
К, к = k	Х, х = ch	

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

HANDBOOK OF MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY

Insects of Medical Importance. By JOHN SMART. With chapters on Fleas by KARL JORDAN and on Arachnids by R. J. WHITTICK. 269 pp. British Museum, London.

THE application of science in the field by our military forces has presented many difficulties, especially in the realm of biology as related to medicine and in matters pertaining to public health. Suddenly a great need arose for a large personnel acquainted with the practical phases of these subjects. Extensive training has been successfully undertaken, but there has existed a real lack of useful handbooks to aid those who could not enjoy the academic atmosphere of libraries and laboratories. In no field, perhaps, has it been more difficult to meet the demand for competent workers than in medical entomology. In many countries the danger from insect-borne diseases such as malaria, bubonic plague and typhus is ever present, while the prevalence of others like typhoid fever and cholera is greatly augmented through the activities of particular insects.

The present book is an attempt to present in brief form material that will enable workers who lack extensive training in taxonomic entomology to recognize and determine with some degree of certainty those insects that menace the public health in the several war zones of the Old World.

By reason of the paramount importance of malarial fevers a major part of the text and illustrations is devoted to a consideration of the species of anopheline mosquitoes, with keys for their identification both as larvae and adults. This section includes over 70 pages with many fine drawings of anatomical details. The numerous species are grouped geographically as Palaearctic, Ethiopian, Oriental and Australian and extensive notes are presented to correlate these larger areas with specific places or borderland countries. Such an arrangement should be especially helpful in dealing with this large complex, in which only a small proportion of the species are important vectors of malaria, despite their close structural similarity. Ecological notes on breeding places are included. There is a general review of the other blood-sucking Diptera with a table for the recognition of the several important families and more complete accounts of some groups. Thus, the gad-flies (Tabanidae) and the African tsetse flies are treated more extensively, especially the latter. A general account of Dipterous larvae that invade the body is given in a section on myiasis, together with enumerations of blow-flies and maggots that may occur in foods. To all sections frequent bibliographic references are appended in the form of footnotes.

A section on fleas, written by Dr. Karl Jordan, will prove valuable, although it is far less complete than the part on mosquitoes.