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.

FRANCIS W. PENNELL

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 = ’
Е, е = e, je	Р, р = r	Ы, ы = y
Ж, ж = ž	С, с = s	Ь, ь = j
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.

In any such compendium much must necessarily be omitted and the material that is included requires careful selection to avoid serious gaps. Dr. Smart has quite consistently passed over all reference to groups that are of zoological interest only, which means, of course, that the greater part of the book deals with the Diptera. Aside from insects, there are several short accounts of some other arthropods, mainly mites and ticks.

Although this book was prepared and printed in England, under the most trying conditions and undoubtedly in considerable haste, the material is singularly well selected, carefully prepared and beautifully printed on first-class paper. It may be heartily recommended, especially to entomologists overseas as a brief, practical aid in the identification of disease-bearing insects. The one really serious defect is the very incomplete and wholly inadequate index.

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CHEMISTRY OF ORGANIC MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The Chemistry of Organic Medicinal Products. By GLENN L. JENKINS and WALTER H. HARTUNG. Second edition. vi + 675 pp. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York; Chapman and Hall, Ltd., London. October, 1943. $5\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in. $6.50. Bound in dark-red cloth.

THAT a second edition of this book should appear only two years after the first one (reviewed in SCIENCE, n.s., 96, 516; December 4, 1942), indicates that there is a considerable demand for a compact yet comprehensive treatment of this exceedingly interesting and rapidly expanding field, and that this particular work has met with favor.

On the material side, the new edition differs from the old in being printed instead of planographed, and bound in cloth in place of stiff paper. To provide space for the supplementary information given, including a wholly new chapter on "Some Physicochemical Properties of Medicinal Products," over 200 pages have been added. The former text has been thoroughly revised and some chapters completely rewritten.

In other respects, the book remains much the same, and should prove helpful to both chemists and medical men who wish to refresh their memories on the older drugs and learn something about the newer ones, for it includes methods of preparation, properties, uses and modes of administration.

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ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Laboratory Practice of Organic Chemistry. By G. ROSS ROBERTSON. x + 369 pp. Illustrated. Macmillan Company. 1943. $2.50.

THE author has presented an excellent laboratory manual for the beginning organic chemistry student. Part I, containing chapters 1–16, introduces the most thorough and clearly organized theoretical development the reviewer has seen in any organic laboratory manual. The thorough drilling in the theory and techniques of the elementary laboratory practice should help to eliminate the "cook-book" chemist in the majority of beginning organic students.

Part II introduces detailed instructions for fifty-nine typical and well-selected experiments in organic chemistry. The experiments are designed to cover both the aliphatic and aromatic series, and experiments may be chosen from both series to be applied to a one-semester course primarily for premedical students.

The reviewer feels this revised edition is one of the best beginning organic laboratory manuals available.

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MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS

Methoden der Mathematischen Physik. By R. COURANT and D. HILBERT. 2 volumes. Interscience Press. By permission of the Alien Property Custodian. $8.00 each; $14.00 the pair.

THE two volumes by Courant and Hilbert are already widely known among mathematicians and physicists for their clarity, rigor and breadth of view. They constitute an outstanding source of material on expansion methods and partial differential equations. American mathematical physics will be benefited both during the war and after by having them available at a greatly reduced price.

American mathematics is being further served by the republication, also under authority of the Alien Property Custodian, of such other standard works as Doetsch, "Theorie und Anwendung der Laplace-Transform" (Dover); Frank-von Mises, "Differential und Integralgleichungen der Mechanik und Physik" (Rosenberg); Hilbert-Bernays, "Grundlagen der Mathematik" (Edwards); Jahnke-Emde, "Funktionentafeln mit Formeln und Kurven" (Stechert, Dover); Kellogg, "Potential Theory" (Murray); von Neumann, "Mathematische Grundlagen der Quantenmechanik" (Dover); Peters, "Siebenstellige Werte der Trigonometrischen Funktionen" (Edwards); van der Waerden, "Moderne Algebra" (Ungar).

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