I think the name *Plasmodium vivax* (Grassi and Feletti, 1890) for the tertian parasite is perfectly right. But I don't suppose it is justifiable to call the quartan malaria parasite *Plasmodium malariae* (Feletti and Grassi, 1889, 1890). It should be a very dangerous and confusing procedure for the application of the Law of Priority to include references to more than a single dated work for a name; either their 1889 preliminary communication is the correct basis for the name, and reference to the 1890 paper must be dropped, or *vice versa*. Moreover, it seems to me that Feletti and Grassi did not clearly differentiate tertian from quartan parasites on any or both contributions. It is better to accept as the first clearly limited distinction of the quartan parasite that proposed in 1890 by Grassi and Feletti as *Haemamoeba malariae*, and call the organism accordingly *Plasmodium malariae* (Grassi and Feletti, 1890).

In regard to the parasite of malignant tertian malaria, the name proposed by Sabrosky and Usinger is *Plasmodium falciparum* Welch (1897). This form, the same employed by the Malaria Commission of the League of Nations,[3] is clearly incorrect, because Welch called this parasite *Hematozoon falciparum*, and being later transferred to the genus *Plasmodium*, the original author's name must be written in parenthesis.

Coatney and Young,[4] in a very illuminating discussion of the taxonomy of human malaria parasites, propounded the same designations here supported as the proper *de facto* names to be used.

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THE GENERIC NAME OF THE SAND FLY

THE attention of the executive committee of the International Commission has been drawn to the communications regarding the generic name of the sand fly by Dr. William F. Rapp, Jr., which appeared in the issues of SCIENCE for April 28 and August 11, last, and by Dr. Charles T. Brues in the issue for May 26, last.

The proposed abandonment of the emended spelling *Phlebotomus* Agassiz, 1842, in favor of the original spelling *Flebotomus* used by Rondani when he first published this name in 1840, affects not only workers in systematic zoology but also—and perhaps especially—workers in the medical field in view of the enormous literature regarding the role played by this fly in the spread of disease. It is clearly of great importance that, in order to prevent confusion from arising, the correct spelling of this generic name should be settled as soon as possible. In view of the fact that the issue involved turns upon the interpretation of Article 19 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, it appears to the executive committee that this is a matter which should be referred for decision to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, as the authority officially charged with the duty of interpreting the application of the International Code in cases of difficulty. Communications in regard to this matter should be addressed to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at their Publications Office, 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

FRANCIS HEMMING,
Secretary, International Commission Zoological Nomenclature

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

SPECTROSCOPY

Experimental Spectroscopy. By RALPH A. SAWYER. viii + 323 pp. 107 figs. 16 × 23½ cm. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1944. $3.75.

THE author states in the preface that "The purpose of this book is to discuss prism and grating spectrographs and the techniques of their use in research. It is designed for students of spectroscopy and for those in research laboratories who wish to make use of spectroscopic procedures. For this reason, extensive mathematical treatments have been avoided; a background of general physics and some physical optics should be sufficient for an understanding of the presentation."

Successive chapters and pages of the book deal with (1) "The History of Spectroscopy," 1–17; (2) "Light Sources," 18–27; (3) "Spectroscopic Apparatus—General Principles," 28–46; (4) "Prism Spectroscopes and Spectrographs: Theory and Construction," 47–83; (5) "Prism Spectroscopes and Spectrographs: Types and Use," 84–120; (6) "The Diffraction Grating: Theory and Production," 121–144; (7) "The Diffraction Grating: Mountings and Use," 145–182; (8) "The Photographic Process," 183–204; (9) "The Determination of Wavelength," 205–243; (10) "The Determination of Spectral Intensity," 244–276; (11) "Apparatus and Methods of Infrared Spectroscopy," 277–287; (12) "The Spectroscopy of the Vacuum Ultraviolet," 288–295; (13) "Spectrochemical Analysis," 296–310.

The need for a book of this kind has been growing for two decades during which extraordinary develop-

[3] Comité rapporteur de la Commission du paludisme, *Bull. Org. d'Hyg.*, 9: 139–262, 1940.
[4] G. R. Coatney and M. D. Young, *Publication No. 15 of the A. A. A. S.*, pp. 19–24, 1941.