Comments and Communications

Term "Vitamin P" Recommended to be Discontinued

At the meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Atlantic City, April 17–21, 1950, the following recommendation of the Joint Committee on Biochemical Nomenclature of the American Society of Biological Chemists and the American Institute of Nutrition was adopted:

"The term 'vitamin P' was first applied to a substance present in lemon juice. It was said to be effective in reducing the extent of hemorrhages and extending the duration of life in scorbutic guinea pigs, and was also proposed for the treatment of vascular purpura. Subsequent studies have failed to substantiate these claims, and the identity of a substance of a vitamin nature has not been established. Continued application of the term 'vitamin P' to one or another of a group of polyphenolic substances will lead only to confusion. It is therefore recommended that the term 'vitamin P' should no longer be employed."

JOINT COMMITTEE ON NOMENCLATURE
H. B. Vickery, *Chairman*
E. M. Nelson
H. J. Almquist
C. A. Elvehjem

Color Standards

Through the Inter-Society Color Council we have received a reprint of the article "Robert Ridgway's Color Standards," by D. H. Hamly, published in SCIENCE (**109**, 605–608 [1949]). In it the mention of our *Colour Atlas* misrepresents its major contribution, and we would be very glad to see this point cleared up in your journal.

We quote: "Dade standardizes Saccardo's Latin Color Names on a Ridgway basis; Maerz and Paul make many references to Ridgway names and give their color equivalents; and Wilson, in his color charts for horticultural use, gives Ridgway names for his chips when possible, as does Villalobos in a recently published set of standards."

The fact is that we have not used names in our charts, neither Ridgway's nor any other, because we think that a terminology in words is a very rough means for designating the colors in a systematic, scientific classification. Moreover it would have been an extravagant enterprise to seek names for the 7,239 colors contained in our *Atlas*. So we have devised a special system of brief symbols that can be used to designate any practical number of colors.

But knowing that Ridgway's *Color Standards and Nomenclature* (which is now out of print and probably cannot be reproduced) has been widely used since 1912 by many naturalists, specially ornithologists, in many determinations, we considered it useful to add to our work a supplement of "Conversion Tables" for the 1,115 colors contained in Ridgway's, referring them to an equal number of samples actually contained in the *Colour Atlas*.

Of course, we have transcribed Ridgway names in this supplement as the obvious means for correlating his colors with out symbols. For instance, the molor named by Ridgway Andover Green, XLVII, 25 $''''i$, is precisely identified as equivalent to our Y-6-2°; which symbol immediately suggests a color with a yellow hue, dark and very much discolored; or, in other words, a dark gray (value 6 in our scale of 20 "neutrals" in which black is 0 and white is 20) toned with a yellowish hue.

C. Y J. VILLALOBOS

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Genetic Effects in Man from Atomic Explosions and from Chronic Irradiation

The Atomic Energy Commission has recently issued for public use a 456-page book entitled *The Effects of Atomic Weapons*. Two pages of this are devoted to the "Genetic Effects of Radiation," and the present writer, among several others, is given credit for supplying material for the chapter containing the section. The writer appreciates the generosity of this acknowledgment, which is due to an entirely trivial note he prepared on a related subject, a note which was in fact unsuitable for use by the *Handbook*. He feels obliged to make it quite clear that he did not write any of the text appearing in the *Handbook*, did not see it before publication, and as a geneticist wishes to disclaim any responsibility for the contents. In a revision slip this section has been completely rewritten, and now has a very different character; the present letter is motivated by the contents of the original version, not of the revised one. Since, however, the writer has had no hand in this revision either, he has asked the editors to remove his name from any future editions.

A. C. FABERGÉ

Botany Department
University of Missouri

Separating Pages of Publications

The coating materials used in the manufacture of paper of current periodicals provide a beautiful, glossy surface, but once the pages get wet and then dry while touching one another, their separation is difficult. Such pages can be separated by soaking them in water and drying between interleaving newspapers, which can be changed once or twice to hasten dehydration. The publication can then be placed near an artificial source of heat until dry enough to prevent further sticking of the pages after the newspapers have been removed.

The print on the pages of such journals as SCIENCE and *Plant Physiology* is not destroyed by this method of treatment.

GEORGE R. JOHNSTONE

Department of Botany
University of Southern California, Los Angeles