



The International Depository of Cytological Slides

An Appeal of Cytologists

IN 1939, the International Union of Biological Sciences (see p. 58) requested Professor P. Martens, director of the Carnoy Institute in Louvain, Belgium, to resume the project of an International Depository of Cytological Slides, zoological and botanical. This proposition had previously been submitted to the late Professor V. Grégoire by the Union; but, owing to his poor health at the time, he was unable to bring it into operation. On the other hand, the state of war and the international situation have delayed up to this day the announcement of the creation of this organization.

The Union's purpose is to group in an easily accessible center, the Cytological Laboratory of the Carnoy Institute at Louvain (Belgium), those preparations from various research centers that have been used as a basis of previously published research. Every scientist interested in a definite problem would thus be able to compare his own documentation with the original cytological documentation of prior authors in his field of research. It is hardly necessary to emphasize the considerable value a depository of this kind would acquire in the future and the extent to which a better understanding among workers would be aided; or how many difficulties and vain contestations, now filling scientific literature, would so be avoided.

But this result can only be attained by the broadest understanding and collaboration on the part of the

largest possible number of cytologists. The IUBS invites them all to send, from now on, to the above address, the slides used as a basis for their completed and published work, and to repeat such deposits in the future. It is also desirable that on the slides any areas thought to be especially demonstrative or actually used in published illustrations, should be marked as clearly as possible, and that a reprint of the published paper be supplied.

Any recognized biologist, or any other person possessing a scientific recommendation, will be able to consult or study, as long as convenient, any preparation entrusted to the collection. The consultant will have free use of the laboratory and of all necessary instrumentation. All work shall be done within the depository, except when written permission is granted by the depositor of the slides.

The slides will remain the private property of the depositors, who will be able, at any time, to have them returned to them, the cost of postage to be supported by the institution. Departments of biology and institutions that have had bequeathed to them the slides of eminent deceased biologists are in particular urged to deposit such collections in the International Depository.

P. MARTENS

Administrator of the Depository
Louvain

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