INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

RESUME OF NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE AND JUDICIAL COMMISSION MEETINGS AT RIO DE JANEIRO

S. T. Cowan and R. S. Breed, Permanent Secretaries

BOTH THE Judicial Commission and the Nomenclature Committee held a series of meetings during the fifth International Congress of Microbiology at Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro, in August, 1950. Most of the items were discussed first by the Commission and later by the Committee, which decided what action should be taken on matters referred to it.

Dr. A. Lwoff, who had been elected Chairman of the Committee at Copenhagen, opened the meeting and took the chair until Professor A. J. Kluyver was elected the new chairman. Dr. A. R. Prevot, the newly-elected vice-chairman, took the chair at the second session. Professor R. E. Buchanan took the chair at all sessions of the Judicial Commission.

Members of the International Committee and of the Judicial Commission (names italicized) present were: Prof. A. *Sordelli* and Ing. Santos Soriano (Argentina); Mr. W. J. Scott, alternate for Prof. Rubbo (Australia); Dr. A. Bitancourt (Brazil); Dr. A. C. Thaysen (British West Indies); Prof. E. J. Morin (Canada); Dr. Hugo Vaccaro (Chile); Dr. F. Kauffmann, Prof. N. F. Buchwald (Denmark); Dr. A. R. *Prevot*, Dr. A. *Lwoff*, Dr. *Lépine*, Dr. *Segretain* (France); Prof. C. *Stapp*, Prof. H. Schlossberger, alternate for Dr. Haupt (Germany); Dr. J. Ramsbottom, Dr. G. S. Wilson, Dr. C. H. *Andrewes*, Prof. H. B. Maitland, alternate for Dr. Miles (Great Britain); Prof. A. J. *Kluyver*, Prof. J. W. Wolff, alternate for

Prof. Julius (Holland); Dr. M. Ashner (Israel); Dr. G. Penso, Dr. P. Redaelli, alternate for Dr. Ciferri (Italy); Prof. Th. *Thjotta* (Norway); Prof. Sven Gard (Sweden); Prof. R. E. *Buchanan*, Dr. G. W. Rake, alternate for Col. Hitchens, (U.S.A.), Prof. E. Hormaeche (Uruguay); Dr. R. St. John-Brooks (Life member); Prof. Robert S. *Breed* and Dr. S. T. *Cowan*, Permanent Secretaries.

Dr. R. St. John-Brooks, after acting for twenty years as one of the permanent secretaries, asked to be released from these duties. In both the Committee and the Commission the chairmen expressed regret that Dr. R. St. John-Brooks felt compelled to give up this work; they thanked him for all the effort he had put into his work as permanent secretary for medical and veterinary bacteriology, and expressed the hope that he would be the first Life Member of the Committee.

Professor Buchanan, Chairman of the Commission, reported that the official text of the International Bacteriological Code of Nomenclature had been printed in English, and that unofficial translations had been made into French, German, and Spanish. While it is most desirable that the Code should be translated into different languages the Commission felt that some control should be exercised over the translations.

Amendments to the Code
Several amendments to the bac-

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teriological Code had been proposed, and were considered first by the Commission, which made recommendations to the Committee. Recommendations accepted by the Committee became effective after their approval by the Plenary Session of the Congress.

A proposal that Provision 4 of Chapter 4 of the Code be rescinded and replaced by new Provisions 4 and 5 was approved unanimously. These new provisions define more definitely the constitution of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature and the Judicial Commission and the duties and functions of their members and officers. This amendment is published in this BULLETIN.

A proposal that the word "taxon" and its plural form "taxa" should be used instead of "taxonomic group" or "groups" was not accepted, but it was agreed that the words "taxon" and "taxa" should be inserted in parentheses after the words "taxonomic group" or "groups" wherever these occur in the Code.

The amendment of Chapter 3, Rules 1, 2, 3, and 4, to the wording used in the Botanical Code was discussed but the proposal was not acceptable. It was agreed that the Editorial Board should make the changes necessary to require that names of families, subfamilies, tribes and subtribes shall be taken from the name of a contained genus, and to frame a new Recommendation that in choosing a family name, the stem of the name of the type genus be used.

It was agreed that Chapter 3, Rule 5, should have a phrase added to indicate that citations of authors and dates are governed by Rule 16. This action was necessary because,

when a genus becomes a subgenus, the strict application of Rule 5 before amendment might produce a different result from the application of Rule 16.

An amendment to Chapter 3, Rule 9, had been proposed with the object of laying down more definite rules for the selection of type species. The discussion covered the whole type concept and was not restricted to type species and type cultures. It was decided to appoint a special committee, Dr. Prévot, Dr. Ramsbottom, and the Editorial Board, to consider the working of the amended rule and to submit the final proposal to a postal ballot of members of the Nomenclature Committee.

There were three proposals for amendment of Rule 24. The first had been made at the Copenhagen Congress and its object was to make illegitimate any generic name of more than six syllables. This proposal was, by leave, withdrawn. The second proposal was one to make illegitimate names of genera and species that are not adequately characterized. After discussion it was decided that it would be very difficult to draw up such a rule and that the proposer should be invited to frame a definite amendment.

The third amendment was intended to correct an error that had been overlooked when the Code was approved at Copenhagen. In the fourth paragraph of Rule 24 the word "genus" was incorrectly used for "taxonomic group", and it was agreed that an appropriate correction should be made.

The desirability of changing Rule 27, Recommendation 27d, was discussed at length. It was agreed that classical genitive endings should be used in specific epithets formed from Latin and Greek.

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patronymics. The use of the terminal *-ii* for other patronymics was the subject of criticism and, by a small majority, the Commission recommended the use of a single *-i*. However, the Committee referred the matter to the Editorial Board for further consideration, and a final ballot of all members of the Committee will be held.

Nomina conservanda and nomina rejicienda

Two diametrically opposed proposals concerning the generic name *Bacterium* and the family name *Bacteriaceae* were before the Commission: one requested that these names be made *nomina rejicienda*, and the other that they be made *nomina conservanda*. It was decided to take a ballot of members present and to ask absent commissioners to vote by post.

Opinions issued by the Commission

An Opinion was prepared as a model for discussion and the Chairman asked commissioners to comment on its form. Two opinions were issued and are reproduced in this issue of the BULLETIN.

Subvention of the work of the Commission and Committee

It was decided to ask permission of the Plenary Session to forward to UNESCO an application for a subvention for the work of the Commission and Committee. Secretarial expenses and postage costs were considerable and were steadily increasing as the work of the Commission and Committee increased; until now these expenses had been borne entirely by members and by the institutes to which the members were attached.

Report of Subcommittees

The Subcommittees on Taxonomy as organized since the

Copenhagen Congress, i.e., the Subcommittee on *Neisseria*, Subcommittee on Medical and Veterinary Mycology, Subcommittee on Viruses, Subcommittee on *Pneumococcus* and the Subcommittee on *Leptospira*, were all accepted as functioning Subcommittees of the parent Nomenclature Committee. The recommendation of the *Pneumococcus* Subcommittee that it be merged with the *Streptococcus* Subcommittee was accepted. Likewise, the recommendation of the Phytopathological Section of the Congress that the Virus Subcommittee be subdivided into Animal and Plant Sections was not only accepted but it was also decided to add a third section to the Subcommittee to consider the classification of Bacterial Viruses.

Several new subcommittees had been proposed during the Congress and it was agreed that their formation should be dealt with under the amended Provision 4 of the Bacteriological Code.

It was agreed to authorize the publication of reports that had been read before Section II of the Congress, but it was essential to point out that these reports did not necessarily represent the views of the Nomenclature Committee which reserved to the Commission the right to consider all problems of nomenclature.

The *Enterobacteriaceae* Subcommittee recommended that the World Health Organization should be asked to extend the International Salmonella Centre at Copenhagen into a Salmonella and *Escherichia* centre, and that two *Shigella* Centres should be established, an International Centre at Chamblee, Georgia, U.S.A., and a British Commonwealth and European Centre at Oxford. These recommendations were approved and were forwarded to W.H.O.

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The Virus Subcommittee made two recommendations on the nomenclature of viruses and both were approved. They were firstly that the starting date of virus nomenclature should not be considered until the next international microbiological congress and secondly, that the use of a comprehensive system of nomenclature for virus is at present unwise.

The provisional subcommittee on *Lepidospira* was authorized, and the provisional subcommittee on pneumococcus was combined with the subcommittee on streptococcus. Several new subcommittees had been proposed during the Congress and it was agreed that their formation should be dealt with under the new Provision 4 of the Bacteriological Code.