BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE AND TAXONOMY

REPORT ON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR BACTERIA
OF THE VII INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS

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AS DR. O. N. ALLEN (1) has noted, no formal meetings of the Special Committee for Bacteria were held during the Botanical Congress at Stockholm. This was due, primarily to the fact that those most responsible for the activity of this Committee were involved in the preparation for the Fifth International Congress of Microbiology which was held in Rio de Janeiro one month after the Botanical Congress. While one of us (Brooks) was present at Stockholm, responsibilities in connection with meetings of the International Union of Biological Societies prevented taking an active part in the discussions on nomenclature.

Ever since 1930, the year in which the First International Congress of Microbiology was held in Paris and the Fifth International Botanical Congress was held in Cambridge, England, there has been a willingness on the part of all concerned to turn the chief responsibility for stabilizing bacteriological nomenclature over to microbiologists. In this spirit of co-operation, the International

Conference on Botanical Nomenclature that met in Utrecht in June, 1948, appointed the authors of the present report (both of whom were serving at the same time as Permanent Secretaries of the Nomenclature Committee of the International Association of Microbiologists) as Joint Secretaries of this Special Committee for Bacteria of the Botanical Congress. At the same time, the following were appointed members of this Special Committee: W. Beneke (Münster, Germany), J. Ramsbottom (London, England), E. M. Doidge (Pretoria, Union of South Africa), T. Wiken (Zurich, Switzerland).

When notice of our appointment reached the two of us in January of 1949, a preliminary communication was sent to all members of this Special Committee. Only two individuals responded, Dr. Wiken and Prof. Doidge. When this letter finally reached the latter in May of 1949 at P. O. Anesley, Natal, Prof. Doidge replied that having retired to this remote country place he no longer had facilities for work of this kind or

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(1). Internat. Bull. Bact. Nomen. and Taxonomy, 1:9. 1951.

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for any scientific work. An effort was then made to secure the appointment of more actively interested persons, but Prof. Lanjouw was in Surinam and when he returned, he found the work of preparing for the Botanical Congress so great that nothing further was done. No contact was established with Prof. Beneke or with Dr. Ramsbottom before the Stockholm Congress.

Copies of the Code for Bacteriological Nomenclature that had been adopted by microbiologists at their Fourth International Congress of Microbiology in 1947 were distributed to the Special Committee and some opinion favorable to recommending that the Botanical Congress take formal action recognizing the primary interest of microbiologists in this field was expressed, but could not be formally presented to the Botanical Congress because of the inactivity of the members appointed to the Special Committee for Bacteria of the Botanical Congress. It should be noted that microbiologists, in

the Code adopted at Copenhagen, recognize their obligation to work harmoniously both with the botanists and with the zoologists in fields where there are mutual interests.

At Stockholm, Dr. O. N. Allen was appointed as Secretary of a new Special Committee for Bacteria of the Botanical Congress to work with Dr. Ramsbottom in organizing a more active Committee. The interest and competence of Dr. Allen for this work is shown by the excellent report he has presented in this Bulletin of the actions taken by botanists on nomenclature at Stockholm. Dr. Ramsbottom is a member of the International Committee for Bacteriological Nomenclature of the International Association of Microbiologists, and both Dr. Allen and Dr. Wiken were added to this Committee at the Rio de Janeiro Congress of Microbiology. It is hoped that a more active cooperation between botanists and microbiologists can be developed before the next Congresses in these fields are held.