INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
NOMENCLATURE AND TAXONOMY

Vol. 13, No. 3

July 15, 1963

pp. 171-173

REQUEST OF THE VIRUS SUBCOMMITTEE

The following statement has been received from the Chairman of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature of the International Association of Microbiological Societies with a request that it be published in the July, 1963, issue of the International Bulletin of Bacteriological Nomenclature and Taxonomy:

"The Chairman of the Virus Subcommittee, after consulting members of the Subcommittee, has submitted a proposal to the Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee for transmission to the President of the I.A.M.S.

"The proposal is that the Virus Subcommittee of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature should be dissolved and that a new Virus Committee should be appointed by the Executive Committee of IAMS. By implication the proposed Virus Committee will rank equally with the Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature and will report directly to E.C.I.A.M.S.

"The background to the proposal is contained in a letter from the Chairman, International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature, dated 10th June, 1963, to the President, I.A.M.S., which appears as an Addendum.

"Members of the Nomenclature Committee and others interested in Virology are asked to send their views as soon as possible, and by 31st December, 1963, at the latest to Dr. S.T. Cowan, Chairman, International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9., England.

S.T. Cowan, Chairman,
International Committee on
Bacteriological Nomenclature"

ADDENDUM

The following is a copy of the letter sent by the Chairman of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature at the request of Sir Christopher Andrewes to the President of the International Association of Microbiological Societies:

" 10th June, 1963

Dear Mr. President,

"At an informal meeting in London on 20th March, 1963, Sir Christopher Andrewes outlined some difficulties experienced by the Virus Subcommittee of the International Nomenclature Committee. He reported that most virologists are more concerned with the classification of viruses than with the nomenclature applied to them; that many of them considered that viruses differed so much from bacteria that they needed separate treatment, and that they doubted the wisdom of continuing the Virus Subcommittee of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature.

"After discussion it was agreed that Sir Christopher should write to the members of the Virus Subcommittee and seek their views. This he did and in a letter to me dated 4th May, 1963, summarised the replies received. He pointed out that many members of the Virus Subcommittee had not replied, but that this was not unusual for these particular members.

"Sir Christopher asks me to submit to you and the Executive Committee of I.A.M.S. the recommendation that the Virus Subcommittee of the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature be dissolved and that the Executive Committee of I.A.M.S. should appoint a Virus Committee responsible directly to itself. The functions of the proposed Committee would be to study virus systematics, to decide if a separate code of nomenclature for viruses is desirable, at least as an interim measure, and if so, to propose such a code.

BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE
AND TAXONOMY

"I am sending to you the letter from Sir Christopher, together with the replies he received from members of the Virus Subcommittee so that you and the Executive Committee will be able to read the views of individual members.

"I have not yet consulted the members of the Nomenclature Committee on the proposal put forward; I shall consult the committee members and will let you know their views when these are received. Meanwhile I pass the request from the Virus Subcommittee to you now so E.C.I.A.M.S. may consider the matter at its meeting in July.

Yours sincerely,

S.T. Cowan, Chairman,
International Committee on
Bacteriological Nomenclature

Dr. A. M. Lwoff,
Institut Pasteur,
28 Rue du Docteur Roux,
Paris 15,
France. "