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R. E. BUCHANAN: * AN APPRECIATION

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This appreciation of Professor Buchanan was written by one of his oldest colleagues at the request of the Chairmen of the International Committee on Nomenclature of Bacteria and of the Judicial Commission on the occasions of the retirement of Professor Buchanan from the Judicial Commission and of his appointment as a life member to the International Committee.

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Robert Earle Buchanan attended every International Congress for Microbiology; he was a member of the Commission for Nomenclature and Taxonomy (the other members were Pribram, KIsskalt, Reiner-Müller, Ledingham, St. John-Brooks, Yamasaki, and Prévot) which recommended to the plenary session of the first Congress (1930) the formation of a permanent Nomenclature Committee, and he became one of the original members of that Committee. The Committee entrusted the preparation of a draft code for bacteriological nomenclature to a small American-Canadian group, and Buchanan became its chairman. At the third Congress (1939) a Judicial Commission was formed, and again Buchanan became chairman. He presented the draft code to the Nomenclature Committee at the fourth Congress (1947) and secured its approval in plenary session; after further revision (1950, 1953) the code was published in book form in 1958 with valuable annotations written by Buchanan himself.

It is true to say that three men were responsible for the development of the Nomenclature Committee (Buchanan,

*Nota bene. Nolui publicare. Dictavit magister, "fiat"!
Consummatus est.

Breed, and Brooks), and without these three B's the Committee would not have survived its growing pains. The Bacteriological Code is largely the work of Buchanan; in addition he made a record of the thousands of scientific names applied to bacteria and studied the problems associated with them. This valuable list appeared recently under the title *Index Bergeyana*; it would have been more appropriate to call it *Index Buchananensis*.

Buchanan was the Editor-in-chief of the *International Bulletin of Bacteriological Nomenclature and Taxonomy*, which first appeared in 1951; this publication was recently renamed, *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*, and Buchanan continues to serve as Editor-in-chief.

This brief survey of Buchanan's association with the Nomenclature Committee is an epitome of the history of the Committee, its Commission, and its publications, but it does not do justice to the man who has been a friend to all who have interested themselves in bacterial nomenclature. The fact that he has laid down the chairmanship of the Commission gives us an opportunity to pay tribute to our guide, philosopher, and friend, and to wish him a happy retirement as a Life Member of the Nomenclature Committee.