ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL MICROBIOLOGICAL CONGRESS IN LONDON, 1936, REGARDING BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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The Congress held during the past summer presented the first opportunity for the members of this Committee to meet for conference. The following members of the Committee were present: Prof. S. Orla Jensen (Denmark), Prof. A. Pettersson (Sweden), Prof. F. Mesnil and Dr. A. R. Prévet (France), Prof. M. Grimes (Irish Free State), Prof. A. J. Kluvver (Holland), Dr. J. C. N. Penido (Brazil), Mr. J. Ramsbottom, Dr. Wm. Scott, Dr. A. C. Thaysen, Mr. P. Bruce White and Dr. R. St. John-Brooks (Great Britain), Prof. R. E. Buchanan, Prof. J. Howard Brown, Prof. E. A. Pribram and Prof. R. S. Breed (U. S. A.) Chairman.

Arrangements for two business sessions of the Committee were made at a tea held on Saturday, July 25, at the British Museum of Natural History. At these, there was an interesting discussion of criteria to be used in the classification of microorganisms led by Mr. P. Bruce White. The Committee then considered the report on proposals of Prof. R. E. Buchanan and Prof. H. J. Conn on the status of the genus Bacillus and its type species Bacillus subtilis previously published in the Cent. f. Bakt., II Abt., 92, 1935, 481. The conclusions presented in this report were approved with minor changes for presentation to the plenary session of the Congress.

Dr. St. John-Brooks then presented the report of the Salmonella Sub-Committee which had been published in the Journal of Hygiene, 34, 1934, 333. This embodies the views of the Sub-Committee on the classification of this group, but had not been previously presented to the Committee for action. After discussion, and at the request of the Sub-Committee who desired
the opportunity to carry out further studies, the report was referred back to them for further consideration, with power to fill vacancies on the Sub-Committee, and to co-opt additional members. The Committee expressed its approval of the use of the generic term *Salmonella* with the type species *Salmonella cholerae-suis*.

Prof. Mesnil presented a proposal that would forbid the duplication of generic names among *Protista*, e.g., *Babesia*; and Prof. Breed presented a proposal relative to the non-capitalization of specific names. The actions taken are given below.

Prof. Mesnil was requested to prepare, for presentation at the next Congress, a list of the generic names whose status would be affected by this proposal to invalidate generic homonyms among *Protista*.

Prof. J. Howard Brown was appointed to draw up a statement for presentation to the Committee regarding the use of abbreviations for generic names and was given power to act in appointing a Sub-Committee to work with him.

Dr. Penido suggested that action be taken to establish a more satisfactory nomenclature for viruses. While the group looked with favor on the suggestion, no action was taken as the Committee does not have authority under the rules formulated by the Paris Congress.

The following resolutions were approved at the plenary session of the Congress:

1. On the Proposals of Prof. R. E. Buchanan and Prof. H. J. Conn relative to the status of the Genus *Bacillus* and its type species, *Bacillus subtilis*.
   (a) It was agreed that *Bacillus* Cohn 1873 should be designated as a genus conservandum.
   (b) It was agreed that the type species of *Bacillus* should be designated as *Bacillus subtilis* Cohn emendavit Prażmowski, 1880.¹

It was agreed that the type (or standard) strain should be the Marburg strain.

It was agreed that cultures of the type (or standard) strain of *Bacillus subtilis* together with complete description should be maintained at each of the recognized Type Culture Collections.

It was agreed that the genus *Bacillus* should be so defined as to exclude bacterial species which do not produce endospores.

It was agreed that the term *Bacillus* should be used as a generic name and that it should be differentiated from the terms "bacillus," "bacille" and "Bazillus" used as morphological designations.

On the Proposal by Prof. Mesnil relative to generic homonyms:

(a) Generic homonyms are not permitted in the group *Protista*.

(b) It is advisable to avoid homonyms amongst *Protista* on the one hand, a plant or animal on the other.

On the Proposal by Prof. Breed relative to non-capitalization of specific names, it was agreed that bacteriologists should accept Article 13 of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, as follows: "While specific substantive names derived from names of persons may be written with a capital initial letter, all other specific names are to be written with a small initial letter. Examples taken from bacteriological literature: *Salmonella Schottmuelleri* or *Salmonella schottmuelleri*, *Bacillus Welchii* or *Bacillus welchii*, *Acetobacter Pasteurianum* or *Acetobacter pasteurianum*, *Corynebacterium ovis*, *Nitrosomonas javanensis*, *Rhizobium japonicum.*"