

University News

Edinburgh

DR D. S. FALCONER, at present deputy director of the ARC Unit of Animal Genetics, has been appointed to a personal chair in genetics. Dr Falconer will take up his appointment on April 1 when he will also become director of the ARC unit in succession to Professor C. H. Waddington.

University College of Swansea

PROFESSOR E. T. NEVIN, professor of economics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, has been appointed professor of economics and head of the Department of Economics.

Announcements

THE Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter prizes have been jointly awarded to Professor W. Morgan, director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, and Professor O. Westphal of Freiburg. The prizes were awarded for contributions in the fields of physiology and medicine.

ERRATUM. In the article "Not Enough Uranium" (*Nature*, 217, 893; 1968) the estimates of available resources of uranium at a price of less than \$10 a lb of U_3O_8 should have read 700,000 short tons, with a further 126,000 short tons available as by-products, not 7,000 short tons.

ERRATUM. In the report of the symposium of the Experimental Plant Taxonomy Group of the Linnean Society (*Nature*, 217, 902; 1968), *Potentilla anglica* was quoted wrongly as an alltetraploid which forms trivalents at meiosis; it is, in fact, an allo-octaploid which forms only bivalents at meiosis.

ERRATUM. In the article "Haemoglobin Torino— $\alpha 43$ (CD1) Phenylalanine \rightarrow Valine" by A. Beretta, V. Prato, E. Gallo and H. Lehmann (*Nature*, 217, 1016; 1968), in lines 22 and 27 of column two, page 1018, the words higher and lower are interchanged. The amount of haemoglobin A is higher in heterozygotes for haemoglobin A and α -chain abnormal haemoglobins, and lower with β -chain abnormal variants.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Reference Problem

SIR,—One of the most irritating features of the work of editing, typing and publishing a scientific paper must surely be the problem arising in connexion with the bibliography, or citation of references to other literature. Yet that problem ought to be readily soluble.

The advantages of standardization in literature references will be obvious to author, typist and editor alike: in the interests of the author, such standardization would allow the choice of journal to be made with convenience after the manuscript has been edited; for the typist it would mean easy, rapid copying from standard filing cards, while the editor would be spared the boring task of altering punctuation, the ordering of initials, and so on. Both the American Standard Association (ASA) and the British Standards Institution (BSI) have prepared style manuals with sections devoted to bibliography. It is conceivable that the assessments and recommendations of the ASA and the BSI are occasionally inapplicable for certain reasons. Indeed, it is admissible that the forms of documentation needed in different fields are so multifarious that universal standardization is probably unattainable. In going from the general to the particular, however, it does seem likely that the difficulties involved would diminish, so that it ought to be feasible to achieve

bibliographic standardization among, for example, those journals devoted to biology. In 1960, the Committee on Form and Style of the Conference of Biological Editors prepared a *Manual for Biological Journals* dealing with style in writing, and a second edition of this work was published in 1964. Unfortunately, the resolutions passed by this committee have not been acted on generally; this is clearly evident from a perusal of the late issues of just a small sample of biological journals, namely, those containing papers on genetics.

To underline the point, here follow some references as they appeared in recent numbers of different journals on genetics.

MILES, C. P. & S. D. STRONG (1962). Nuclear chromocenters of cultured chicken cells. *Exp. Cell Res.* 27: 377-381. (*Genetica*, 38, 30, 1967).

COHEN, S. S. & BARNER, H. D. (1954). Studies on unbalanced growth in *Escherichia coli*. *Proc. natn. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 40, 885-893. (*Genet. Res.*, 3, 99, 1966).

REES, H., AND THOMPSON, J. B. 1956. Genotypic control of chromosome behaviour in rye. III. Chiasma frequency in homozygotes and heterozygotes. *Heredity*, 10, 409-424. (*Heredity*, 22, 347, 1967).

WEYERS, W. H. Expression and stability of the marbled allele in maize. *Genetics* 46: 1061-1067. 1961. (*J. of Heredity*, 58, 156, 1967).

MILES, C. P. AND STOREY, S. D. 1962. Nuclear chromocenters of cultured chicken cells.—*Exp. Cell Res.* 27: 377-381. (*Hereditas*, 57, 216, 1967).

Bender, M. A., and P. C. Gooch, 1962. Persistent chromosome aberrations, in irradiated human subjects. *Radiat. Res.* 18: 44-53. (*Japan. J. Genetics*, 42, 162, 1967).

OLDS, D. AND SEATH, D. M. (1950). Predictability of breeding efficiency in dairy cattle. *J. Dairy Sci.*, 33, 721-724. (*J. of Genetics*, 59, 237, 1966).

DARLINGTON, C. D.: Crossing over and its mechanical relationship in *Chortippus* and *Stawoderus*. *J. Genet.* 39, 465-500 (1936). (*Chromosoma*, 22, 191, 1967).

MIRSKY, A. E., and H. RIS, 1951. The desoxyribonucleic acid content of animal cells and its evolutionary significance. *J. Gen. Physiol.* 34: 451-462. (*Genetica*, 57, 13, 1967).

Lerner, I. M., and F. K. Ho. 1961. Genotype and competitive ability in *Tribolium* species. *Amer. Natur.* 95: 329-343. (*Amer. Natur.*, 101, 274, 1967).

Inasmuch as bibliographic standardization on a broad basis is probably unrealizable, and because in practice geneticists, for example, will only rarely come into professional contact with journals devoted to economics or theology, it may be worthwhile for the geneticists themselves to try to introduce some uniformity into the reporting of work in their own field.

The next Congress of Genetics, to be held in Tokyo in the summer of 1968, will certainly convene the vast majority of editors of journals on genetics. At that time a meeting could easily be arranged at which all these editors could debate the problem mooted here. Other difficulties might be aired and perhaps solved at the same time. The matter of illustrations deserves some consideration: some journals ask for original drawings with complete lettering, others for drawings without lettering, still others for photographs or photocopies of the drawings, and so on. The lay-out of the summary or abstract, of the acknowledgments and of the footnotes could also be discussed.

In the event of some agreement being reached, either the officers of the congress, the members of the Permanent Committee for Genetic Congresses, or the members of some other committee yet to be appointed, could easily communicate the suggestions resulting from the editors' deliberation to the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). In its turn, the IUBS could pass on these suggestions to other members of the union and, eventually, to the main body of the scientific community.

Yours faithfully,

FREDERIC A. LINTS

Laboratoire de Génétique,
F. A. Janssens,
Parc d'Arenberg,
Heverlee-Louvain,
Belgium.