

Miles Prize has been presented to **Dr J. Annett**, senior lecturer in psychology at the University of Hull, for his contributions to the development of techniques of training.

A new prize, the **Robinson Medal**, is to be awarded by the Library Association for inventions and new methods which have aided library technology or administration. The first award will be announced in June 1969 and further information can be obtained from Mr M. Yelland, The Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, Store Street, London WC1.

ERRATUM. The name of the author of the article "Development of Scientific Research" (*Nature*, 218, 846; 1968), was misspelt. The author was not D. M. Malsimović but D. M. Maksimović.

ERRATUM. Dr William I. Rosenblum has written to point out that the abbreviated title which appeared on the contents page (*Nature*, 218, 591; 1968) incorrectly described the content of his communication. The full title, which appeared above the communication, was: "Effects of Dextran-40 on Blood Viscosity in Experimental Macroglobulinaemia".

ERRATUM. The Dunn Nutritional Laboratory was established at Milton Road, Cambridge, in 1929, and not at Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, as stated earlier in *Nature* (218, 1097; 1968).

ERRATUM. In the communication "Matrix Property of Vibrational Overlap Integrals" by R. W. Nicholls (*Nature*, 219, 151; 1968), the symbol ψ_1 in the sixth line should read ψ_i ; equation (1c) should read $\int \psi_a(r)\psi_b(r)dr$, and equation (2b) should read $(l,n) = \sum (l,m)(n,m)$.

CORRIGENDUM. In the communication "Chemical Effects of Ion Implantation in Molecular Solids" by T. Anderson, T. Langvad and G. Sørensen (*Nature*, 218, 1158; 1968) the figures in the third and fourth rows of columns four and five in Table 1 were reversed. They should read:

		Labelled <i>trans</i> (per cent)	Labelled <i>cis</i> (per cent)
⁶⁰ Co ⁺	20 keV	11.7 ± 1.0	18.5 ± 1.0
⁶⁰ Co ⁻	60 keV	12.1 ± 1.0	12.0 ± 2.0

CORRESPONDENCE

Nomenclature Madness

SIR,—In the April 5 issue of *Nature* (218, 10; 1968) is described the confusion that could result were a newly proposed one-letter code adopted to replace the standard three-letter symbols for the twenty amino-acids. Since the surest way to eliminate confusion is to prevent it in the first place, the comment rightly concludes that the best way to deal with this new proposal is to ignore it.

Workers in the field of blood grouping have had, and continue to have, more than their share of problems of nomenclature. This began shortly after the discovery of the A-B-O blood groups by Karl Landsteiner (this year is the centenary of his birth), when Moss and Jansky introduced the use of Roman numerals to designate the four blood groups. Then followed thirty years of confusion and error until the Division of Biologies Standards of the US National Institutes of Health finally took determined action by requiring that blood grouping sera be labelled unambiguously as "anti-A" and "anti-B", respectively. Then, when workers were no longer confronted in their daily work with the Roman numerals on the labels of the reagents they had to use, the Moss-Jansky "nomenclatures" (they were really numerical *codes*¹, and not nomenclatures) were promptly discarded and forgotten. With the exclusive use of the rational Landsteiner A-B-O nomenclature, the serology of the subgroups of A and the

genetics of the A-B-O blood groups became more readily intelligible, so that rapid progress in the knowledge and understanding of the A-B-O blood group system resulted.

Unfortunately, the lesson of A-B-O blood group nomenclature made little or no impression, so that when the Rh-Hr blood types were discovered, in addition to the original, rational nomenclature, two different coded systems of notations were introduced, one involving the letters C-D-E, and the other using the numbers 1-2-3. In order to adopt a "neutral" position in the resulting controversy, the Division of Biologies Standards decided that the labels of Rh-Hr antisera should carry not only the standard Rh-Hr symbol but also the corresponding C-D-E symbol in parentheses. Unnecessary duplication of nomenclatures thus having received the sanction and endorsement of the DBS, twenty years of confusions and error have resulted. In order to resolve this problem, a meeting on blood group nomenclature was held by the New York Academy of Sciences on April 10, 1967. In preparation for the meeting a questionnaire was circulated among workers in the field. This questionnaire contained ten protocols of reactions of red cells with various Rh-Hr antisera, and the workers were requested to indicate the symbols that they used to represent the phenotype and the corresponding genotype or genotypes. The results of the questionnaire were revealing, but it will suffice to reproduce here only Table 1, giving the simplest case.

Table 1

Rh ₀	rh'	rh''	hr'	hr''
D	C	E	c	e
1	2	3	4	5
-	-	-	+	+

Author	Phenotype	Genotype
Wiener <i>et al.</i> *	rh	rr
1. M. A. Et.	rh (ede)	rr (ede/ede)
2. J. Sw.	ede	ede/ede
3. G. A. M.	rh (ccdee)	rr (ede/ede)
4. L. E. N.	ccdee	ede/ede
5. Pa. Mo. ♀	ede/ede	ede/ede
6. F. L.	rh or dee	rr or dee/dee
7. Pa. Mo. ♂	ccdee	ede/ede
8. S. P. M.	c, e positive	rr
9. H. A. Fe.	D- C- E- c+ e+	rr (ede/ede)
10. J. So.	ddccc	rr (dee/dee)
11. B. Ch.	r; less often Rh: -1,-2,-3,4,5 or rh	rr or cde/ede less often R ^{-1,-2,-3} /R ^{-1,-2,-3} or r/R ⁰⁰¹ or cde/---, less often R ^{-1,-2,-3} /R ⁰⁰¹

* Wiener *et al.* refers to the fact that all workers who used the Wiener Rh-Hr nomenclature entered the same or virtually the same symbols into the questionnaire as given on the first line of the tables.

The results of the meeting of the NY Academy of Sciences were unambiguous². Summarizing, Dr John B. Miale stated³, "I find the evidence overwhelmingly in favor of adopting Wiener's nomenclature, and, more importantly, the genetic and serologic principles on which it is based. I can think of no good reason for not discarding the Fisher-Race notation".

Unfortunately, this matter cannot now merely be dismissed as solved. One cannot, as suggested by *Nature* for the amino-acid code, simply ignore the matter. As can be seen, reputable scientists continue to use the C-D-E and 1-2-3 notations despite their patent fallacies^{4,5}. Since the problem of Rh-Hr nomenclature is interfering with progress in the blood grouping field, it is hoped that the publication of this letter in *Nature* may help bring the problem into the open, and stimulate workers to act, for the matter can easily and quickly be solved, as for the A-B-O nomenclature problem.

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¹ Wiener, A. S., *Haematologia* (in the press).
² Wiener, A. S., *Trans. NY Acad. Sci.*, **29**, 875, 892 (1967).
³ Miale, J. B., *Trans. NY Acad. Sci.*, **29**, 887 (1967).
⁴ Wiener, A. S., *J. Forensic Med.* (S. Afr.), **15**, 22 (1968).
⁵ Shapiro, H. A., *J. Forensic Med.* (S. Afr.), **14**, 1 (1967).