

### Zoological Bibliography.

REFERRING to my letter on this subject in NATURE of November 3, p. 652, I am asked to state that the recommendation that the size of the publications of scientific societies should, if possible, be demy octavo, originated with a committee of the British Association on the size of periodicals, not with that on Zoological Bibliography and Publication; and that this was also the recommendation of the Corresponding Societies' Committee at Liverpool.

T. SHEPPARD.

The Museums, Hull.

THE British Association Committee on Zoological Bibliography and Publication desires me to emend a statement in the friendly and welcome letter which Mr. T. Sheppard has addressed to you on behalf of the Corresponding Societies' Committee (NATURE, November 3, p. 652). The recommendation that the format of a society's publication should be demy octavo (approximately,  $9 \times 5\frac{3}{4}$  in., or  $22.5 \times 14.5$  cm.) does not occur in the last report of my Committee or in any of its previous reports.

If that recommendation was made either by the Corresponding Societies' Committee or by the Conference of Delegates from those societies, it will doubtless have been transmitted to the Council of the British Association, and will presumably be communicated by that body to the Committee which it has appointed to report on such questions.

Meanwhile I am to add that my Committee already has a different proposal of the same nature laid before it, and that it will report on the subject in due course.

The only recommendation by the Conference of Delegates of which I have received information is as follows: "To urge the adoption by scientific societies of the bibliographical recommendations contained in the current Report of the Zoological Publications Committee."

May I request those who may desire a copy of the Committee's last report to address themselves to me at the Natural History Museum, London, S.W.7, and not to the Secretary of the British Association.

F. A. BATHER,  
Secretary.

November 12.

### A Standard System for Scientific and Technical Publications.

THE enormous amount of current scientific and technical literature is a matter of common remark. It goes to swell an ever-increasing accumulation, of which a large portion, comprising research data, observations, measurements of values, and so forth, remains of permanent value. The various published indexes serve to keep account of it, but the labour required to make a comprehensive review over any range of recorded fact is considerable, and will steadily increase as time goes on. With the view of alleviating such labour I have worked out in detail an organised publication system, as specified below in two parts.

1. *The Standard Page Size Scheme.*—A certain suitable size should be nominated as the standard page size, and be adopted generally for scientific and technical publications, except for special reason to the contrary. The size would be chosen by experts, and would be some compromise between a small magazine size and a book size.

2. *The General Encyclopædia Scheme.*—Standard size publications of booklet and pamphlet form to be perforated at a standard spacing for filing on the ring-book, or other similar system. Each of such publications to have a word or phrase, descriptive of the

contents, printed on the top right-hand corner of the front page, so that by this "cyclopædic phrase" such publications can be filed in alphabetical order. In the case of periodicals, each important article should begin at a right-hand page, and occupy a whole sheet or set of sheets, the space left over being left blank, or filled with advertisements or small matter. The periodicals should be so bound that such articles can be withdrawn without mutilation; the standard perforation and cyclopædic phrases should be provided as for pamphlets.

Upon the adoption of the system, pamphlets and articles withdrawn from periodicals would be filed in an orderly and compact collection in covers of book size, in alphabetical order, or order of classification as desired. But I specially argue that the system would permit of a variety of arrangements of great service to those who desire to make any review over recorded fact. Only certain classes of periodicals need conform to the system, in order to derive the main advantages of it, and existing indexing arrangements need not be upset by it.

The above will give only the roughest idea of the system; it has many modifications, and there are very many considerations to be taken into account. But I am prepared to go into precise details with any committee set up to consider the system from a general scientific point of view. Such a committee might, for example, be appointed by the British Association. I shall also be glad to supply an account of the system to any person specially interested.

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### A Fossil Caddis-case.

ATTENTION has frequently been directed of late to the extraordinary persistence in time of various insect structures, as shown by fossils. It might be assumed that the reactions and instincts of insects were similarly ancient, and of this we have a certain amount of actual proof, as in the case of some of the ants, the remains of which are so abundantly preserved in Baltic amber. When I was recently in Vladivostok, Dr. A. Kryshstofovich showed me some curious insect cases found fossil in the Tertiary rocks at Posiet, a locality in Siberia close to the border of Korea. One of these cases, which he gave me, proves on examination to be that of a caddis-fly of the genus *Phryganea*, quite similar to the modern *Phryganea grandis*. It is composed of pieces of *Sequoia langsdorffii*, which are arranged side by side in the usual spiral fashion, and are about 5 mm. long and 1.2 mm. wide, the case itself being 7 mm. wide. The species represented by these cases may be called *Phryganea Kryshstofovichii* n. sp. (Fig. 1). The cases from the Miocene of Oeningen in Baden, long ago named *Phryganea antiqua* by Heer, do not belong to this genus. The true *Phryganea* case is quite a specialised structure, with a definite spiral arrangement, which we now see to have been evolved long ago, the Posiet beds being Lower Miocene or probably earlier. In the insect-bearing beds on the Kudia River, Siberia, N. lat:  $46^\circ$ , I secured a wing of *Phryganea*, which will be described elsewhere.



FIG. 1. — *Phryganea Kryshstofovichii* case.

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Colorado, Oct. 10.