

tion appointed a commission of notable scientists from several countries to compile from the many thousands of terms in use, as applied to microscopical human anatomy, a list which should include only the term for each part which was decided to be most suitable. This commission set to work on the difficult and exacting task in hand, guided by certain principles to which they were able to adhere with but few digressions. The aims of the undertaking can be best made clear by quoting Prof. Barker's own statement of these principles :

- " (1) Each part shall have only one name.
- (2) Each term shall be in Latin, and shall be philologically correct.
- (3) Each term shall be as short and simple as possible.
- (4) The terms shall be merely memory signs, and need lay no claim to description or to speculative interpretation.
- (5) Related terms shall as far as possible be similar, e.g., Femur, Arteria femoralis, Vena femoralis, Nervus femoralis.
- (6) Adjectives in general shall be arranged as opposites, e.g., dexter and sinister ; major and minor ; anterior and posterior ; superficialis and profundus."

The result of these labours was a systematized and selected list of Latin terms, which can be used in any country, either through a translation or, better even, in the Latin form. It has been adopted as a basis of nomenclature in Europe to a large extent ; and in Great Britain and America has been employed in various medical schools and treatises on anatomical subjects with apparently good success. The publication of Prof. Barker's book from the press of P. Blakiston's Sons & Co., in which both Latin and an Anglicized list are presented, should do much to further the general adoption of the B. N. A.

The general introduction of this list into the educational work of American institutions would, it is hoped, greatly facilitate research and progress in anatomy, by removing the unnecessary part of a most unscientific collection of technical terms, as 5,000 accepted names would serve the purpose, for which there are now many times that number in use.—T. D. JARVIS.