organism that attracts your interest by some peculiarity or abnormality. You isolate it, and put it by, with the intention that at some convenient season you will investigate it further, but alas, procrastination is the thief of time; the convenient season does not come, and the organism probably dies of exhaustion, starved by inattention to its material needs.

Now, if we had a clearing house the course would be different. You would say, candidly, I have not the time to work out this organism; it is interesting on account of its morphology or some peculiarity of its culture; I shall send it to the clearing house with a note as to where it was found, and its peculiarities. It is, therefore, duly dispatched, and on arrival at the clearing house, those in charge will read the letter and note the peculiarities, and will say, send this to John Doe, he is interested in this line and is working on this particular group, or investigating this irregularity, etc., or failing a student of this group, the organism might be investigated by those in charge of the clearing house.

This is a function that a well equipped and adequately staffed museum might undertake—possibly the American Museum of Natural History might institute a department charged with such work. If this were possible it would be a great asset to our Society. Failing such an organization, it might be possible to arrange for some distribution through the Journal.

X. A NEW DETERMINATIVE BACTERIOLOGY

Those of us who teach and those who are engaged in general or systematic studies, know the difficulties experienced in determining species.

Frantic search of Chester, Migula, Matzuschita, of monographs here, of periodicals there, often fail to give any information or assistance on the points we desire, and then we realise the inadequate nature of our descriptions and our classifications, for they are numerous.

The Society, through the interest of some of its members, has taken cognizance of the chaos in classification and has adopted certain revisions which are helpful.