

that the later views are adopted by those to whom they have a right to look for instruction upon these technical points. Let them, at any rate, be clear in their minds that the changes are in accordance with the existing laws, or let them agitate for such alteration in the current code as will produce legally the modifications they desire.

Other special cases may arise of still greater difficulty than those I have here discussed. For the proper solution of these, I think the suggestion of Mr. Alfred Wallace\* is most valuable. It is that all disputed points in nomenclature should be referred for investigation and decision to a committee of experts. Such a committee could be readily formed in the Entomological Club of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which would dispassionately determine all questions relating to the progress of the science in North America, and announce their decisions each year. These decisions would, I am convinced, be cheerfully adopted by most, if not all of those who are occupied in the study of the insects of this continent.

One more suggestion in conclusion. It is this: That in proportion as the objects become well known, and especially in those species which fortunately possess no synonymy, all reference to authorities should be dropped, except when *bibliographical reference* to a full description or figure is necessary. If, however, a synonym must be mentioned, let the author of this supplementary name be quoted.

Should this suggestion be adopted, it will result that the name of the describer will not be unnecessarily connected with the valid name of the species, and one strong support of the small personal vanity which I have criticized in the first part of this essay will be destroyed. Another important result will be that the maker of a synonym will know that his name will be inseparably connected with that synonym, whenever it is mentioned; and that, therefore, so far from being an honor, or a recognition of good work, the use of an authority will come to be known as an indication of bad or imperfect work, and the makers of species on hasty study or on defective materials will be discountenanced.

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\* Address of the President, Trans. Ent. Soc. London, 1871, lxviii.