The International Society of Soil Science in the meetings at Oxford has established a General Committee on Nomenclature with Dr. D. J. Hissink (Groningen, Holland) as President and Dr. G. W. Scott-Blair (Rothamsted, England) as Secretary. Each Commission was authorized to establish a committee on nomenclature and representatives were to be appointed by each commission to serve as members of the General Committee. The Nomenclature Committee of Commission V as appointed by Dr. C. F. Marbut consists of G. Milne (Amani, Tanganyika), C. G. T. Morison (Oxford, England), B. Polynov (U.S.S.R.), H. Stremme (Danzig), E. del Villar (Spain) and C. F. Shaw (U.S.A), Chairman. Morison and Polynov were designated as representatives on the General Committee.

In the discussion of the work on nomenclature, there was a general agreement for more definite establishment of the meanings of technical terms that are coming into use throughout the world. There also was considerable discussion of the need for the establishment of language equivalents or the proper translation of technical words into the several languages. After much discussion by the Executive Committee of the Society meeting with delegates from the several commissions, the Nomenclature Committee was instructed to concentrate its efforts primarily on the definition of technical terms with secondary emphasis placed on the translations or language equivalents. The latter work could easily degenerate into a five-language dictionary (English, German, French, Spanish and Russian) as in the examples presented by proponents of the word equivalent program it was evident that many of the words were those in rather ordinary usage and that if followed out logically the number would be so great as to tax the capacity of the Society in publishing the lists. The general opinion of the delegates as expressed in these meetings indicated a desire to proceed slowly and cautiously, establishing definitions of new terms and of those words that are being used sense not adequately covered in the current dictionaries. The glossaries have been submitted in the past and include many common terms such as compact, tough, hard, gritty, mulch, yellow, silt, and the like, that have well established meanings in most languages. These can well be omitted. Terms like pedocal, solonetz, laton, glei, pedology, and braunerde are yet clearly defined and need the attention of soil scientists. It is a field that most of the constructive work can be done.

Each commission will proceed in its own field to the extent that is necessary. The material from each commission is to be sent to the General Secretary, Dr. Scott-Blair, who in turn will submit duplication of terms to the committees of the other commissions thereby endeavoring to bring about a general agreement throughout the entire Society. It is planned that at the Fourth Congress a considerable bibliography will be presented for approval by the Society as a whole.

The Committee on Nomenclature of Commission Va (Forestry) had before it a proposal regarding the nomenclature of the organic accumulations on the forest floor. During the excursion these suggestions were presented to the members of the Committee and although there was little opportunity for extended discussion, all the members of the Committee except one (Morison) read the definitions and offered suggestions for modification. This list of definitions which will be submitted for approval to the Secretary of the General Committee is given here with as an example of the work to be done.


1. The definition of the forest humus layers, must, in accordance with P. Müller, be based on morphological and ecological criteria.

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