A meeting of the Enterobacteriaceae Subcommittee was held on Saturday, 19th August, at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Dr. F. Kauffmann (Chairman)
Dr. R. E. Buchanan (by invitation)
Dr. S. T. Cowan (representing Brigadier J. S. K. Boyd)
Dr. P. R. Edwards
Prof. E. Hormaeche
Prof. Gunnar Olin
Prof. G. S. Wilson (representing Dr. Joan Taylor)
Dr. R. St. John-Brooks (Secretary)

Meeting of Enterobacteriaceae Subcommittee
August 19th, 1950

Dr. Kauffman presided and opened the meeting with a short statement of appreciation of the work of the late Mr. P. Bruce White as those present stood in silence in memory of their former colleague.

It was announced that Dr. Edwards had consented to act as joint chairman of the Subcommittee.

A summary of the report was read and certain changes in the report were noted. These changes involved the labelling of the proposed paracolon groups as provisional groups and a statement that cultures formerly labelled Shigella rabaulensis and Shigella rio should be placed in S. flexneri 4 without indication as to subtype until such time as their position is fully established. It was stated by the chairman that of 15 members of the subcommittee, one expressed no opinion of the report. Eleven were in agreement. Dr. Rauss did not approve the classification of S. flexneri and Drs. Boyd and Taylor were opposed to separation of the Escherichia and Klebsiella groups and to the formation of an international Escherichia Center.

Dr. Wilson was asked to open the discussion on behalf of Dr. Taylor, whom he represented.
He emphasized the fact that the opinions of Drs. Taylor and Boyd were identical with those of the British Enterobacteriaceae Subcommittee. He stated further that there was very strong opposition in England to the establishment of the genera *Escherichia* and *Klebsiella*. It was felt there that these groups proposed by the Subcommittee should be retained in the genus *Bacterium*, presumably as *Bact. coli* and *Bact. aerogenes*, although this point was not clarified in the discussion.

A general discussion ensued which centered about the coliform organisms and the use of the terms *Escherichia*, *Klebsiella* and *Bacterium*. It was emphasized by various members of the Subcommittee that the purpose of the report was to establish serological groups and not to erect genera. Dr. Wilson thought that some of the group names were so widely accepted as genera that the general bacteriological public would feel that the Subcommittee intended all groups to be genera. It was chiefly for this reason that he objected to the *Escherichia* and *Klebsiella* groups. Dr. Buchanan expressed the view that the term group could be used without generic connotation. Dr. Cowan stated that he believed that coliform organisms pathogenic for plants should be included in the work and that one or more plant pathologists should be made members of the Subcommittee. Dr. Kauffmann agreed. Dr. St. John-Brooks spoke of unpublished work which he had done on *Aerobacter* and *Erwinia* strains, indicating their close relationship.

On the question of an international *Escherichia* Center Dr. Wilson expressed the view that it was permissible to establish Salmonella and Shigella centers since the groups were well understood. However, in his opinion, establishment of an *Escherichia* center was premature since the group was ill-defined, the term *Escherichia* was objectionable for the reasons cited above, and the serology of the group in question was not well understood. These statements precipitated another prolonged discussion. Later it was brought out that the British Subcommittee thought the presentation of a *Proteus* antigenic schema based only on *P. vulgaris* and *P. mirabilis* also was premature. Dr. Kauffmann spoke of the time and expense involved in the typing and shipment of cultures and in the preparation of serums. His institute proposed to carry on this work as well as the Salmonella Center, with the money originally granted by The World Health Organization for the International Salmonella Center. This money as yet has not been received.

It was then decided to present the report of the Subcommittee
to the Nomenclature Committee and to instruct their secretary to write The World Health Organization concerning the extension of the International Salmonella Center to an International Salmonella and Escherichia Center and the establishment of two Shigella Centers, (a) a British and Commonwealth Center at Oxford, England, and (b) an International Center at Atlanta, Georgia, U. S. A. The objections of two members to the extension of the Salmonella Center to a Salmonella and Escherichia Center were to be recorded.

Dr. Wilson inquired regarding the method of establishment of centers and Dr. Buchanan explained that such centers were approved by the Nomenclature Committee and that the secretary of the Committee would write The World Health Organization concerning them. Dr. St. John-Brooks stated that The World Health Organization was moving toward formal relationship with the International Association of Microbiologists and that such a relationship would strengthen the position of the latter organization. Dr. Wilson suggested that the recommendations of the Subcommittee be referred to the Nomenclature Committee for action and there was general agreement.

The meeting was adjourned.

Ralph St. John-Brooks, Secretary