

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS.

To the Editor of *Parasitology*.

ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTAL STATION,  
HARPENDEN, HERTS.

DEAR SIR,

I am instructed by this Committee to ask for your co-operation in a scheme for facilitating the systematic presentation and record of biological measurements.

The Committee has drawn up in leaflet form a series of recommendations for those engaged in preparing for publication biological data of a numerical kind. It is believed that by following these recommendations (*a*) much space and expense of publication might often be saved, (*b*) a large amount of fruitless labour on the part of authors would be avoided, and (*c*) data obtainable from the literature would be far more readily comparable. Our recommendations, however, can only take full effect, if their existence is automatically brought to the notice of contributors.

Cases in which measurements or other numerical observations are too extensive to be printed in their entirety are of special importance, since they will be known in scientific literature only by a summary. The Committee have accordingly made arrangements with the British Museum (Natural History) at South Kensington and with the Royal Society of Edinburgh to establish archives for the reception of bodies of unpublished original measurements, which appear to be of permanent value. These archives will be available to students and will thus, in suitable cases, enable the original data upon which conclusions have been based to be put on record without being printed in full.

In the event of these recommendations being adopted at the Leeds meeting Editors of periodicals can afford valuable co-operation by adding to their permanent notices to contributors the paragraphs suggested in the enclosure, or other to the same effect. I should therefore be glad to know if you anticipate this will be possible.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. FISHER, SC.D.

(*Hon. Secretary*).

Contributors of papers involving extensive numerical observations, are requested to consult the recommendations of the British Association Committee of Biological Measurements, 1927, obtainable from the British Association, Burlington House, W. 1, price 6*d.*

Arrangements have been made whereby original data, too extensive for complete publication may be deposited at the British Museum (Natural History) or with the Royal Society of Edinburgh and so be made available for future workers. Authors desirous of depositing data whether zoological or botanical, in this manner should communicate with either the Keeper of Zoology, Natural History Museum, S.W. 7, or the General Secretary, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22 George Street, Edinburgh, enclosing full bibliographic reference to the publication in which the results are summarised.

(*MS. received* VII. 1927.—Ed.)