

Zurich 21 April 1893

Dr. G. V. Black M.D. J.D.S. Chairman
of the Committee on Nomenclature!

Dear Doctor: Will you have the
kindness to make allowance for my
bad english writing, and excuse me, that
i did not answer your letter of the 9. March
earlier. But i was several weeks so ill from
influenza, that it was impossible for me, to
undertake any thing, and i feel myself
so old and weak (59 years) that it is impossible
for me to risk the travel to Chicago.

It was with the greatest interest & pleasure
i studied your proposals for the proceedings
of the committee. I beg you to accept my
compliments for the able & practical manner
you have attacked the work. That is really
american fashion, & i doubt, whether any

member of the committee will find any point, which should be amended, or which had escaped your observation.

As you have remarked, dentistry, a comparatively young combination of art & science is rapidly growing a branch of medicine. So have fixed rules of nomenclature become an urgent necessity for dentistry, that she may be duly coordinated to the other specialties of the healing art.

The designation of all things in our realm should be clear, short and unmistakable for all scientifically working modern nations.

Therefore, where we lean upon other sciences, we are obliged to accept the Latin or Greek nomenclature there employed.

Where in our own special department we can design the things ably with a Latin or Greek name, we have the advantage, that there will

be no mistake possible in the understanding
of all cultivated nations.

Here in Switzerland a gymnasial education
and the maturity has become a preliminary
requisition for dental examinations. I think
this will be universally adopted, where there
exists a dental legislation, and so the
employment of the old languages for dental
nomenclature will encounter no difficulty
to the dental student.

If there is no possibility of finding a suitable
term in the so called classical languages
the scientifically or technically working inquirer
is obliged to content himself with a name of his
discovery or invention in his vernacular lan-
guage. The other peoples, should they fail to
find a clear, the thing covering translation,
must accept the original nomination
moulding it in their respective tongues.

To take an example: Dr. Barnum's "rubber
dam. The Frenchman says correctly trans-
lating "la digue. The German purist says
Speichelgummi (Saliva rubber) but that's not clear
and the German would do better to keep Dr.
Barnum's designation.

You have already expressed all this so
ably in your memorial, which you have
sent ~~do~~ us, that my remarks are utterly
superfluous.

With my best wishes for the success
of the congress

Yours very truly

prof. Dr. H. J. Biller.