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The Dental Cosmos,

EDWARD C. KIRK, D.D.S., Editor.

CHESTNUT STREET, CORNER TWELFTH.

Philadelphia, October 20, 1892.

Prof. G. V. Black,

Jacksonville, Ill.

My Dear Doctor:-

I have your favor of October 13th respecting the work of the Committee on Nomenclature for the World's Columbian Dental Congress. I quite agree with you that the work will be a difficult one and just at this moment it seems equally difficult for me to suggest any plan of operation, at the same time I am impressed with the necessity of a considerable reform in much of our nomenclature and I believe that a revision well made and authoritatively given to the profession by the World's Congress through its committee on this subject would be cordially accepted by the dental profession.

You may be aware that the American Association for the advancement of science some four years ago instructed its chemical section to take action respecting a more uniform terminology in chemistry. The committee was duly appointed in the chemical section with instructions in harmony with this idea and they have recently handed in their report embracing results of four years work in a revision of spelling and pronunciation of chemical names. A copy of this report can be had by addressing Prof. H. Carrington Bolton, University Club, New York and he could no doubt furnish you with some data with regard to the method by which the committee did their work. In all probability the only way in which we can secure a revision that will be generally acceptable would be to send a circular letter to

a selected list of men whose opinions along this line would be of value and in the circular formulate a series of questions respecting such changes in and additions to our nomenclature as may occur to each member of the committee, then in addition ask each individual to which the circular was addressed to forward with his reply to the committee a list of any other changes or modifications which may occur to him and from the material so gathered let the committee prepare a report to the Congress embodying a digest of all the data which they have secured and ~~reduced~~ ^{reduced} to a systematic basis. The efforts which are being made at present towards revision in nomenclature in several departments of science are quite pronounced. The Government through its Board of Education will shortly issue a chart upon the spelling and pronunciation of chemical terms, also a report of similar revision of geographical names and I think the effort which your committee is required to make with reference to dental terms is particularly opportune. As to meetings it will perhaps not be necessary to have many as it is difficult for members so widely separated to get together often. I shall not be in Chicago at the time you mention although I should greatly like to be there, but my duties here demand my constant attention. If there is any way that I can help you with this work let me know and I shall do the best I can. Will you kindly let me have the names of the other members of the committee?

Don't you think it is about time that we had something from your pen for publication in the DENTAL COSMOS? You know we still conduct business at the old stand and that the dental profession are always attentive when G.V. Black has anything to say. With kind regards and best wishes, I am,

Yours truly,

Edward Kirk

Dictated.