editorial

SUGGESTED RULES FOR
THE NOMENCLATURE OF LIPIDS

We are publishing in this issue a group of tentative rules for the nomenclature of lipids put forward by the IUPAC–IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature. Publications of these rules does not imply that we agree with every one of them; indeed, in some cases they conflict with our established practices. Adjustments in our own policy or, possibly, in the Commissions' recommendations may ultimately be necessary. But it is clearly important that all workers in the field should have the opportunity of studying the recommendations, and this is our object in publishing them. If the rules are considered satisfactory by the majority of lipid biochemists, we shall comply with them and do our utmost to ensure their rapid widespread adoption.

All are agreed that uniformity of nomenclature is desirable and that we must reconcile ourselves to abandoning personal bias for the sake of consistent and therefore generally understood nomenclature. If there are strong reasons for disagreement with the recommended rules, however, the Subcommittee should be asked to reconsider them or to justify their recommendations. Readers who believe that grounds for disagreement exist should address them to the Director of the Office of Biochemical Nomenclature, Dr. Waldo E. Cohn, at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Box Y, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, or to any member of the Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature named on the titlepage of the suggested rules (p. 523). I would appreciate it greatly if you would send me copies of your correspondence, for my information in guiding Journal policy.

Appended to the new suggested rules is a list (p. 528) of already published Rules and Tentative Rules in biochemical nomenclature, together with indications of how copies of them can be obtained. Reprints of the present set of suggested rules will not be available from the Journal but can be obtained by application to Dr. Cohn.

E. H. AHRENS, JR.