

EDITORIAL.

Twenty-four years have elapsed since the Institution, then called „'s Rijks Herbarium'', started a series of papers entitled „Mededeelingen van 's Rijks Herbarium, Leiden''. Exactly 70 numbers have been issued between 1910 and 1933 inclusive, most of them under the directorate of Dr J. W. C. GOETHART, to whom many thanks are due for his arduous work and his many cares in favour of these publications.

After the undersigned, on October 2nd, 1933, had taken over the directorate of the Rijksherbarium from the acting director, Dr W. A. GODDIJN, he could start realizing some projects which, in relation to his tropical experience, seemed more or less promising. First of all it was obvious that the Rijksherbarium should, to a greater degree than had been possible during the last decennia, contribute to the investigation of the flora of the Netherlands Indies. Effectuating this idea seems possible by a closer collaboration with the Herbarium of the Botanical Gardens of Buitenzorg, Java, with whose officers it was my privilege to come to an agreement before I left the colony. Another point to be considered was the establishment of a closer contact with the State University at Leiden, the herbarium of which has been united with the Rijksherbarium since 1832. This contact has been rather loose in various periods of the existence of the Rijksherbarium and in developing it, the details will have to be carefully studied and sounded, lest the archive value of the collection should be decreased. Without taking any risk as to this point, which cannot be fully compensated by the advantages, it is thought that a closer contact is both possible and desirable, as it may further two important interests: in the first place it is intended to exploit and to peruse both more intensively and more extensively the treasures of this Herbarium, and secondly an attempt will be made to increase the number of students in the field of investigation that is allotted to the institution.

During the preparations of these plans a third point has arisen of its own, demanding, though of little intrinsic importance, its individual solution. The „Mededeelingen van 's Rijks Herbarium'', being a historically grown series of publications, issued in practically the same form ever since the first number, can at present not be considered as a modern journal. As a matter of fact there was no particular reason why my predecessor should have made any alteration in the tradition.

However, it seems to me that, if ever, the time of changing the directorate and the way of working of the institution — which will probably also affect the contents of the journal —, must also be the right moment to reshape its exterior appearance. Therefore, next to a more standardized size, also a more modern letter type has been chosen; moreover, the various papers will no longer be separately numbered and paged. Also in its new form, however, the journal will be issued at irregular intervals. That its name has been changed too is, of course, a point of minor importance. One of the arguments that this name has been chosen to be „BLUMEA” (after the first director, Prof. Dr C. L. BLUME¹), director from 1829—1862), was that it should be short²) and characteristic.

It is very much hoped that „BLUMEA” will develop into a general Dutch journal of plant taxonomy and plant geography. On account of the present state of the funds available to the Rijksherbarium, however, it is regretted that, for the time being, some restrictions are necessary. Unless more ample funds will be found for its publication, precedence must be given to those papers that

1. are written by a. permanent, b. temporary collaborators of the Rijksherbarium;
2. have made use of materials belonging, wholly or in part, to the Rijksherbarium;
3. are concerned with the flora (taxonomy, geography) or the vegetation (ecology) of a. the Malay Archipelago, b. countries surrounding that Archipelago.

As far as allowed by these restrictions, „BLUMEA” will gladly receive other papers of a similar nature. The director of the Rijksherbarium will be its responsible editor and will be glad to correspond with future contributors; however, he reserves to himself the right to refuse papers or to make such proposals concerning eventual alterations (e. g. as to the illustration or the extent of a paper) as may seem suitable or necessary in the circumstances.

I deem it a privilege to open the first number of „BLUMEA” with papers not only by all staff members of the Rijksherbarium, but by its unofficial collaborator Dr J. J. SMITH, formerly keeper of the

1) The vignette is by the able hand of Dr W. A. GODDIJN.

2) Cf. MERRILL E. D., One-name periodicals. — *Brittonia* 1, 1931, 1.

Buitenzorg Herbarium, by Dr D. F. VAN SLOOTEN, present keeper of that institution, by my colleague at Groningen, Prof. Dr B. H. DANSER and by my colleague for general botany at Leiden, Prof. Dr L. G. M. BAAS BECKING and one of his staff members, and finally by our well-known bryologist FR. VERDOORN. I am equally glad to announce a contribution by my predecessor Dr J. W. C. GOETHART, which could not be finished in time for the present issue but will appear in the next one; his collaboration to „Blumea” is also very much appreciated.

May „Blumea” do its part towards the development of those fields of botany, to which the Rijksherbarium may so amply yield the materials and many, more particularly, in accordance to the quotation which is heading the Dutch version of the present lines, the investigation of the flora of the Netherlands Indies, at no distant date make it possible to compile our knowledge into the comprehensive form of a flora. The Netherlands Indies has, in this respect, something to learn from almost all neighbouring colonies and even from its sister colony Surinam.

Leiden, May 1934.

H. J. LAM.