

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION.

Botanists throughout the world and more especially those who have made a special study of the Natural Family *Orchidaceae* would desire to offer their congratulations and good wishes in person to Dr J. J. SMITH on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.

Since that privilege, however, is denied to so many of us, I desire on behalf of my British colleagues, and especially on behalf of the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to offer to Dr. SMITH our sincere thanks for the valuable work he has carried out on the *Orchidaceae*, *Ericaceae* and *Euphorbiaceae*, in particular of the Malayan region and more especially of the Dutch East Indies during the past thirty-five years; and to express the hope that he may long be spared to continue his valuable researches and enrich botanical literature from the vast stores of his accumulated knowledge and wide experience.

Not only is Dr SMITH a botanist of world-wide reputation, but he is also a botanical artist of distinction; for it must not be forgotten that practically all the numerous plates and figures illustrating "The Orchids of Java" (1905—1911) 483 figures; "Orchids of Dutch New Guinea" (1910—1934) 700 plates; and the "Icones Orchidacearum Malayensium" (1930—1934) 400 figures, were entirely or partially drawn by himself. His skill as an artist has doubtless enabled him to perceive many minor points of botanical detail which might well have escaped the notice of a botanist not furnished with a like ability in masterly delineation.

Space does not permit detailed reference to Dr SMITH's many contributions published in the Annals of the Botanic Garden, Buitenzorg, "Fedde's Repertorium" and "Nova Guinea", which have so greatly enriched our knowledge of the floral wealth of the great Dutch East Indian Dominions. To Dr J. J. SMITH, therefore, we most fittingly offer our good wishes since he is justly regarded as one of the leading orchidologists whose labours we trust may long be continued.

ARTHUR W. HILL,

May 1st, 1937.

Director Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.