

I. CYRIL TENISON WHITE --- Obituary Notice.

1890 - 1950

The death of Cyril Tenison White, Government Botanist, Brisbane, Queensland, occurred on August 16, 1950. The news came suddenly and hit hard; we lost one of the kindest and gentlest of men and, besides, the greatest living authority on the Papuan and Melanesian flora.

Mr White had been seriously ill, two years ago, but seemed to have recovered. His heart remained weak, however, and though he seemed in good health, he had to desist from mountain climbing.

I spent a week ( July 18 - 25) with the White's at Brisbane, a most pleasant stay indeed, and little I suspected a turn of events at once so tragic and so irreparable.

White considered a work commonly felt to be urgently required, a critical enumeration of the Australian flora. He planned to start on this large task as soon as his study of the Cape York collections, made by Brass, would have been finished. There was to be a holiday trip to Queensland, this autumn, and a long leave to be spent at Kew (Jan. - June 1951) for the purpose of a critical examination of doubtful species. In the latter half of 1951, White expected that his MS. on the Cape York specimens would be ready.

And so he discussed his future work with me. Was there some hesitation to begin a work demanding so long a period of time as the planned critical enumeration? I left with his promise to participate in writing *Flora Malesiana*; there were, to begin with, the capsular fruited *Myrtaceae* which he was to revise (in 1952).

The younger Australian taxonomists are now without a leader who put his immense knowledge generously and with great consideration at their disposal; so many of them lost a friend or honoured teacher.

Our deep regret, our warm sympathies we offer to Mrs. White and to Miss White, Heather. With us all, C. T. White remains in memory; he will not be forgotten for his sterling qualities as a man and a botanist.

C. G. G. J. van Steenis.