

## I. EDITORIAL

Recently a cover and an Index have been distributed belonging to numbers 9-12, so that these can be bound into a second volume.

The Foundation suffered a great loss by the passing away of the trustee, Dr E.D. Merrill, Febr. 25, 1956. Dr Merrill took a great interest in promoting the work and we will dearly miss his advice, his help, and the privilege of having access to the colossal store of his knowledge of the Malaysian flora. As a trustee of the Foundation he has been replaced by Mr E.J.H. Corner, F.R.S., Cambridge.

Malaysian botany suffered another loss by the passing away of Dr H.N. Ridley, Oct. 24, 1956, whose hundredth birth-

day was commemorated in the last issue.

Our collaborator for the Lemnaceae Dr Walo Koch, Zürich, suddenly died while on an excursion with his students.

Part 3 of volume 5 of the Flora which is still in the press will contain a general chapter devoted to specific and infraspecific delimitation, explaining the style of the Flora by the general editor. Furthermore it will contain revisions of the Alismataceae (den Hartog), Basellaceae (van Steenis), Dichapetalaceae (Leenhouts), Goodeniaceae (Leenhouts), Hamamelidaceae (Vink), Pittosporaceae (Bakker & van Steenis), Scyphostegiaceae (van Steenis).

Major points in these revisions are the following: In several families or genera a substantial reduction in number of specific names appeared necessary; in *Dichapetalum* and *Pittosporum* which had never been revised before only 25-30% of the names stood the test; *Scaevola* sect. *Enantiophyllum* of which 14 species had been described is accepted to consist of a single species only; *Rhodoleia* is accepted as a monotypic genus.

Some obscure generic names have been clarified: *Lemnairea* De Vriese has appeared to have been based on a mixture of a *Rubiacea* and a *Scaevola*; *Pentastira* Ridl. is reduced to *Dichapetalum*.

The status of some genera or their taxonomical affinity has been subject to careful consideration: *Boussingaultia* has been merged with *Anredera* and in this 2 sections are distinguished; *Ranalisma* is included in *Echinodorus*; *Distylium* and *Sycopsis* have been closely examined morphologically and probably deserve a slightly different place in the generic system of the Hamamelidaceae; finally the affinity of *Scyphostegia* has now definitely been shown to be close to *Flacourtiaceae*, thanks to anatomical data by Dr Metcalfe (Kew).