

I. EDITORIAL

Looking back over the past year the news is, as might be expected partly good, partly bad. On one hand many people are arduously engaged with revisions of various Malesian taxa, on the other hand others waste precious time and energy in ideological squabbles: it seems as if the theological wars of the Middle Ages have broken out all over again.

The Sabah National Parks, including the precious Kinabalu National Park, have been degazetted and demoted to 'Sabah Parks', whatever that may be. An argument used was that 'the forests have now returned to the people', a situation similar to opening the vaults of the National Treasury declaring that the people will now take care of monetary matters. They certainly will! It is a great shame that national heritages are thus squandered for the contemporary gain of a few and the loss of the many of present and future generations. The situation in Sabah is unfortunately not an isolated case, the same thing happens all over the world, both in the tropics as well as in temperate countries that call themselves well-educated (See the Greater Daintree National Park in Australia, Chapter X). It is a sad thing that those working in herbaria have to realize that they soon will be neopalaeobotanists. Our Chapter IV 'Progress in Malesian botany' seems rapidly to become an ironic euphemism.

Many will be glad to hear that the 'Green Bible' (Cyclopaedia of Collectors, Fl. Mal. I, 1, 1950) is being reprinted. It will include the two Supplements which appeared in Fl. Mal. I, 5 (1958) ccli—cccxxxvi and Fl. Mal. I, 8 (1974) ix—cxv as well, so all data are conveniently together. Enthusiasm will perhaps be a bit tempered by the price: DM 280.00 on subscription, DM 350.00 afterwards, which make this manual out of reach where it is needed most: the Malesian countries and their neighbours.

The cover of this issue shows the two people who have given birth to the Flora Malesiana and its many off-spring, this Bulletin included: Prof. Dr. C.G.G.J. van Steenis and his wife, Ms. M.J. van Steenis-Kruseman. I would like to dedicate this issue and the whole volume of which it is a part to the latter for her untiring work in the background, providing us with our 'Green Bible', meticulously researched literature studies, and careful indexing of various matters, as was for instance also the reason why the last issue of Pacific plant Areas (vol. 4, 1984) was dedicated to her. The picture was taken by Ms. R. van Crevel.

A special word of thanks should go to Ms. E. E. ('Emmy') van Nieuwkoop who for many years has typeset the various publications of the Rijksherbarium including this Bulletin with such care that proofreading is virtually superfluous and impossible: there are so few mistakes that the rare ones are overlooked through boredom.