

V. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

(cntd. from p.62).

Accessibility of the Buitenzorg Herbarium. - In Blumea 6, p. 307 (1948), bottom of the page, it is mentioned that the Buitenzorg Herbarium is "as yet inaccessible". The author wrote this article apparently under war-time conditions and neglected to omit this statement which is now obsolete. In order to avoid confusion it may be announced that the Buitenzorg Herbarium is, since January 1947 in full running condition: Head is Dr D.F.van Slooten, botanists present are Dr M.A.Donk, Dr S.Bloembergen, A.G.L.Adelbert, and Dr J.Zaneveld. Of the Bulletin parts 3 and 4 of volume 17 have appeared resp. in Dec. 1947 and May 1948; the first number of vol.18 is in the press. Duplicates and loans are dispatched, and exchange of collections is resumed.

Flora of South Australia. - Mr J.M.Black wrote the first edition of his Flora in 4 parts issued 1922-1929. A second edition of the first part was edited in 1943, the type of part 2 has now been completely set up, and Mr Black is engaged in the revision of part 3. A remarkable achievement at his age: he celebrated his 92nd birthday on April 28th, 1947.

Taxonomic work in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. - In Australas.Herb.News, no 2, p.15-19, May 1948, there is an interesting list of professional and non-professional botanists of the herbaria in Australia, and the work they are engaged to accomplish. There is an additional list of News, and Notes on Current Work.

Facilities for Research in the Natural Sciences in the Hawaiian Islands. - In "Pacific Science" vol.1, p.119-126 more than 20 Agencies or Institutions, both governmental and private, possessing facilities for research in the natural sciences in the Hawaiian Islands are enumerated, with particulars on the mailing addresses, purpose, subdivisions, persons engaged in research, opportunities for field work, libraries, collections, publications, fellowships, and facilities.

Swedish Oceanographic Expedition. - In Febr. the Swedish oceanographic expedition arrived at Soerabaja. It stands under the leadership of H.PETTERSON, Director of the Oceanographiska Institutet, Göteborg, and is executed with the 1450 ton "Albatross". The main aim is collecting mud samples from the ocean bottoms. With a new apparatus 20 m borings can be made. The expedition is planned to take 15 months; the route has been Atlantic, Caribbean, Panama, Tahiti, Hawaii, Ternate, Indian Ocean and Mediterranean.

O.N.O. (Organisatie voor Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek). - In May 1948 there has been established an Organization for the Co-ordination of Research in the Natural and Technical Sciences in the Netherlands Indies, both pure and applied (directed). It is intended to co-ordinate and rationalize interests common to research institutes and experiment stations such as routine work, libraries etc.; private stations can voluntarily enter the organization. Working schemes must be approved of by the O.N.O. The organization stands under the able leadership of Dr Ir P.Honig, before the war Leader of the Techn.Division of the Sugarcane Exper.Station Pasoeroean, subsequently Director of the Neth.Ind.Rubber Association. The office is provisionally housed in the building of the "Natuurkundige Vereeniging", Koningplein Zuid 11, Batavia-C. The garden-grounds belonging to this building have been planted with the agricultural imports Teysmann has made in the past century in the Buitenzorg Botanic Gardens.

East Java Branch of the Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg. - N of Malang a 300 acres tract situated under semi-arid climatic conditions was in 1940 selected in East Java to accomodate those species which cannot be grown under the everwet conditions prevailing at Buitenzorg. There are some streams, a waterfall and a jungle-clad hill near by. Curator Van Woerden and ass.curator Van Leusen submitted a report on the situation of this future garden Poerwodadi which will soon be planted.

Sibolangit Branch of the Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg. - The garden of Sibolangit, situated at ca 500 m alt. above Medan, Sumatra, Eastcoast, was examined by Dr S.Bloembergen and the ass.curator Straatmans, who made a lengthy report on the situation. Work will be resumed in a short time.

Photocopies of obsolete or rare books available. - The editor disposes of the negatives of some photocopies which are available for those who receive this Bulletin, at the cost of reproduction. They are the following:

Reinwardt: Nova plantarum indicarum genera (cf.Fl.Mal.Bull. 4, p. 97) 15 pp. 2 correcting pages. fl. 2.40.

Miquel: Plantae junghuhnianae, pages completing the work and representing p.571-572 (cf Fl.Mal.Bull.2, p.50), 2 pp. fl. 1.20.

Warburg: Zwei fossile Phanerogamen-Gattungen von der Insel Bangka (Jaarb.Mijnwezen Ned.Ind.) 6 pp. 1 photo. fl. 3.50.

Report on the state of taxonomic botany and botanical collections in some areas of Germany since 1939. (British Intelligence objectives sub-committee, Final report no 1520; H.M. Stationery office, London, 17/6. Mimeograph, 1933 pp. Nov.1946. No date of issue, prob. 1947. - Dr A.H.G.Alston, who has made

the research, and drawn the report has done an exceedingly great service to taxonomic botany by this extensive detailed account of taxonomy in Germany from 1939 - Oct. 1946. The aims were, firstly to ascertain the nature and extent of German work on taxonomy, so that duplication in Great Britain could be avoided. Secondly, to ascertain the post-war state and location of existing herbaria containing type specimens, so that these types could become available for monographers as soon as possible. Thirdly, to prepare a list of publications which should be secured for botanical libraries in Great Britain. Some notes in institutions and work of interest to botanists and zoologists, but outside the scope of the work in a strict sense, were collected when convenient, and have been included. The following places were visited between Sept. 4th and Oct. 6th: Hamburg, Göttingen, Giessen, Frankfurt, Berlin, Stuttgart, Munich, Kiel and Plön.

The report is divided into 5 parts viz:

- (1) General information on each herbarium and the botanists working in these places.
- (2) Information relating to other institutions in Western Germany which were not visited.
- (3) List of botanic literature published during the war years, divided into sections representing different branches of botany (p.17-75b).
- (4) Alphabetical list of new species of phanerogams described in German publications in the war years to which are added the collector's numbers of the types; included are also all new combinations in which mention is made of the synonym on which they have been based. Each entry is provided with a full reference in the shape of Ind.Kew. (p.76-167).
- (5) Alphabetical list of German botanists both living and deceased and their whereabouts (p.168-191).

As to the types of Papuan plants which are of primary importance for Malaysian botany I refer to the communication made on p. 60 on duplicates in the Lauterbach Herbarium at Wrocław.

From Dr Merrill we heard the welcome news that the (or part of) evacuated Berlin collections have been returned to Berlin or will be so at the suggestion of the U.R.S.S. Academy of Sciences.

Flora of China project. - To our regret we learned that the project of writing a general Flora of China (mentioned on p.44) seems to be in abeyance. Prof. Bartlett and Dr Walker have not succeeded in finding adequate support in the U.S.A. Dr Walker is going to China for a 9-month's trip but officially this has no connection with the flora project.

Fungi of the SW Pacific. - Dr W. Lawrence White, formerly in charge of the Tropical Deterioration Laboratory at Philadelphia, now working in the Farlow Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass., has received numerous collections and cultures of Fungi causing deterioration of fabrics in the SW Pacific, partly falling within the limits of Flora Malesiana.

Buitenzorg Aid Committee. - In April 1948, a committee was established in the U.S.A., consisting of David Fairchild (chairman), J.J. Ochse (secretary), E.D. Merrill (treasurer), F.W. Went, M.J. Dijkman and Frans Verdoorn (librarian) to further the rehabilitation of the Botanic Gardens and the Visitor's Laboratory (Trebub Laboratory) at Buitenzorg, Java, Neth. Indies, which are still in urgent need of certain equipment, and literature. We would add that, though the Committee mainly intends to organise assistance in the U.S.A., all contributions from other parts of the world preferably in the form of instruments, technical equipment or literature will highly be appreciated.

Botanical collecting in the Moluccas. - Mr G.A.L. de Haan, Kobe, near Weda, Halmaheira, Moluccas, Neth. Indies, is planning a private collection of the native flora of Halmaheira Island. He intends to distribute only exemplary and fertile duplicates, provided with extensive field-notes. He intends to stay during a prolonged period in the island but collecting will be careful sooner than rapid, probably only ca 300 numbers annually; the material will be provisionally identified by the Staff of the Buitenzorg Herbarium. De Haan will gradually extend his collecting to other botanically little explored islands of the Moluccas such as Batjan and/or Obi. In the circular which Mr de Haan distributed to various herbaria it is erroneously stated that duplicates will be available at \$ 0.50 each; this mistake is redressed here. Duplicates cost \$ 0.20 each, excl. dispatch expenses.

Important collection of diatoms at Groningen University. - Attention is drawn towards a very rich and beautifully prepared collection of diatoms made privately between ca 1880 and 1900 by Mr J. Kinker, physician at Amsterdam, now in the possession of the Botanical Laboratory of the University of Groningen, Netherlands. The collection consists partly of preparations, provided with provisional identification lists, and samples (partly cleaned). The samples come from all parts of the world, quite a number are from the Malaysian region; they are mainly marine. The director of the laboratory and Museum, Prof. Dr R. van der Wijk is willing to forward the collection, or part of it, for examination, and identification.

Mountain Garden, Tjibodas, Java. - With much pleasure we announce that the curator of the 300-acres Garden, Mr A.L. Neervoort, is satisfied with the progress of the rehabilitation of his domain.

As is known this magnificent garden, situated on the NW slope of the volcano Mt Gedeh (alt. 10.000 ft), at about 40 km distance from Buitenzorg, suffered far more than the main garden at Buitenzorg. Early in July, 1946, "extremists" destroyed the three main buildings of the Mountain Gardens, viz the Bot. Laboratory, the curator's house, and the 12-bed guest house by fire. The precious guest book, dating from 1880 and containing signatures and notes of hundreds of scientists was lost. So were the laboratory equipment, the local herbarium, etc. The Garden itself remained undisturbed.

Onwards of autumn 1946 the Director, Dr L.G.M. Baas Becking took great pains to restore the former conditions, and at present it is reported that the buildings of an adjacent now abandoned tea-plantation, Rarahan, have been acquired for the Garden. A new house is built for the curator which will be occupied in Sept. 1948. The house at Rarahan will then serve as a guest house. The materials of the old tea factory will be used for constructing a new laboratory replacing the first one which was built in 1920 from funds supplied in 1917 by an international committee. The latter consisted mainly of scientists who had worked in this unique station situated on the margin of the primary mountain forest reserve extending onto the summit of the Gedeh. Unesco will furnish the laboratory with new equipment and furniture. A new greenhouse, 40 m long, is now ready. A large amount of newly acquired seeds has been nursed. In co-operation with the Herbarium at Buitenzorg a new local herbarium is established for which Dr S. Bloembergen collected some 1600 numbers of plants in the adjacent mountain forest. There is a far greater amount of labour available than in pre-war time: 200 in the gardens, and about 50 men for building purposes. In the near future, Tjibodas may again accomodate botanists from abroad.

Dr Baas Becking and Mr Neervoort have checked and measured the trees in the mountain forest above Tjibodas which have been numbered formerly by Dr S.H. Koorders. It enabled them to write a preliminary paper on the age estimates of these forest trees.

Department of Forests, Botanical Section, Lae (Territory of New Guinea). - The Forest Botanist, Mr John S. Womersley, reports that hitherto no technical communications have been published, but several projects will reach the publication stage soon, e.g. a manual giving full botanical and forestry data of a number of New Guinea trees. A survey of the resistance of a large number of species to the attacks of marine borers is being made at the moment. Mr Womersley is working on the

problem of the identity of the New Guinean species of Araucaria. There is a considerable possibility that all 3 species: A.klinkii, A.schumanniana, and A.hunsteinii are synonymous. The accommodation is still primitive but it is expected that shortly a permanent building will be erected. Considerable collections of wood specimens have been assembled. The Forest department will always welcome botanists or associated workers desiring to stay at Lae, and all possible facilities will be made available. Mr Womersley adds that for the library a number of botanical works dealing with this part of the world are desired. He should feel greatly obliged to hear from anybody willing to sell such books.

Some local herbaria in the Netherlands Indies.

Recent reports state that the Herbarium of the Sugar Experiment Station at Pasoeroean, East Java is intact. It consists primarily of weeds of sugarcane fields and documentary samples of experiments.

The private herbarium of the late Dr J.H.Coert was found undamaged at Soerabaja. The large private herbarium of the late J.A.Lörzing has, during the war, been added to the regional herbarium of the Deli Experiment Station; both are intact, and will, probably, be incorporated in the Buitenzorg Herbarium.

Buitenzorg Herbarium. - It is reported that the extensive and unique collections made in Celebes (SW, Central and E parts) by the late Dr P.J.Fyma have been destroyed in the period July-Dec. 1946. Duplicates had not yet been distributed and nothing was mounted. The material was looted from the Buitenzorg Herbarium for the sake of the Chinese paper covers in which the specimens were preserved.

Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Florida (P.O.Box 1309). - The station was established in 1941 for research in biology. It is directed by Richard Archbold, and financed by him through "Archbold Expeditions", a non-profit corporation affiliated with the American Museum of Natural History. The 1050-acre property is situated near the S end of the sand-ridge and lake region of south-central Florida, and is located in a strategic position relating to five of the ten physiographic regions distinguished in southern Florida. It provides accommodations to 10 visiting workers; monthly fee is \$ 50.

Swedish expedition to West New Guinea & adjacent islands. - A Swedish expedition is on its way to West New Guinea for biological exploration of the NW Peninsula of the Island ("Vogelkop"), and the western adjacent islands Misool, Waigeou, Salawati and Batanta. The expedition has mainly zoological

aims, and is carried out in close co-operation with the Botanic Gardens at Buitenzorg; M.A.Lieftinck, Head of the Zoological Museum will also spend some months with the expedition; several Javan collectors will assist.

D.R.Pleyte, of the Botanic Gardens, with some Javan assistants has been charged with botanical collecting for the Gardens and the Herbarium. They started early in June, provisionally for 5 months. Dr M.A.Donk will probably also join the expedition for some months. The leader of the Swedish team is Dr Sten Bergman; the expedition is performed under the auspices of Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm. July 23rd the expedition left Buitenzorg, Java, for Sorong, a small islet off NW New Guinea, where the expedition is to have headquarters. The whole enterprise will take about a year.

Philippine Orchid Review published by the Philippine Orchid Society. - The first number of this new periodical appeared June 1948; Dr E.Quisumbing is editor: it is published tri-annually; membership incl. subscription P.6., single copies P. 2. The introductory letter from the editor is followed by a descriptive illustrated enumeration of the genus *Spathoglottis* in the Philippines by Dr Quisumbing, a note on *Dendrobium lyonii*, a note on 'botanicals', note on orchid pests and suggestions for their control, a note on Philippine *Paphiopedilum* etc. Paper and printing of this popular issue are excellent.

Pacific Science. - A quarterly devoted to biological and physical sciences of the Pacific region. \$3 annually. Published by the University of Hawaii. The first volume was published in 1947. This journal contains also botanical publications. Contributions will be welcomed from authors in all parts of the world.

Conference on Nomenclature and Taxonomy held at Utrecht 14-19 June. - The conference was organized by Dr J.Lanjouw, acting secretary of the International Commission of Taxonomy, Int. Union Biol.Sciences.; Unesco aided financially. A preliminary discussion was held in consideration of proposals to be submitted to the 7th Intern.Bot.Congress at Stockholm, 1950. The conference was attended by E.D.Merrill (Harvard), F.R.Fosberg (Washington), H.W.Rickett (New York), J.Ramsbottom (London), T.A.Sprague (Cheltenham), Ch.Baehni (Geneva), H.Humbert (Paris), W.Robijns (Brussels), C.Skottsberg (Göteborg), chairman, N.Hylander (Upsala), Miss C.M.Eardley (Adelaide), D.Chatterjee (Calcutta), H.J.Lam (Leyden), A.A.Pulle (Utrecht), C.G.G.J.van Steenis (Buitenzorg), J.Lanjouw (Utrecht), Mrs M.L.Sprague and Miss Ch.H.Andreas acted as secretaries. The Rules have been subjected to a careful examination in the light of numerous old and new proposals. The chief sets of proposals were those of the U.S.A., the British Proposals of 1939, an entirely new

elaboration of the Rules by Dr Hylander and a number of Dutch proposals. There was unanimity as to the merits of the majority of the proposals and suggestions. A discussion was held on the urgency and possibility of an International Society of Plant Taxonomists. A sub-committee was established to make preliminary plans. A concise report of the proceedings embodying the conclusions and decisions will be published by Fr. Verdoorn in Chron. Botanica in the autumn of this year.