

VI. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

(cntd from p.362)

Flora of West tropical Africa. A new edition of H u t-
c h i n s o n and D a l z i e l's useful work is being
prepared by Mr R.W.J. K e a y (assisted by Mr F.N. H e p p e r).
Part 1, containing the introductory matter, Gymnosperms and
families Annonaceae to Guttiferae appeared August 1954; ob-
tainable from the Crown Agents London (sh.25.-).

Flora of Tropical East Africa. Under supervision of Drs E. Milne-Redhead and W.B. Turritt this new Flora is now well in progress. Its shape is as concise as possible under the circumstances. Up to May 1954 9 instalments have appeared each treating a separate family, viz Ranunculaceae, Oleaceae, Marantaceae, Tropaceae, Onagraceae, Hypericaceae, Turneraceae, Pedaliaceae, Chenopodiaceae. There is also a special glossary and foreword and preface with a list of abbreviations. This promises to be a very critical flora.

Linnaeus, Species Plantarum. The bi-centenary of the publication of this basic book has been commemorated in Taxon vol. 2, part 3 with articles by Drs Nannfeldt, Uppsala, Sprague, Cheltenham, Bremekamp, Utrecht, Svenson, New York, Mr Savage, Southampton, Arvid Hj. Uggla, Uppsala, Felix Bryk, Stockholm, in an attractive and interesting account.

Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien. It is announced that a further instalment of the Gramineae by the late Dr Pilger is in the press (vol. 14d), containing the Festucoideae, Miscrairoideae, Eragrostoideae, Oryzoideae, and Olyroideae; Rhamnaceae and Vitaceae have appeared as vol. 20d.

At the Paris Congress Dr Melchior stated that several other volumes are in preparation and that, financially, the continuation of the work is ensured.

I cannot conceal a certain disappointment in seeing that the original plan of the work, as a full Genera Plantarum, is gradually being abandoned and that many authors cannot confine themselves to genera and infrageneric taxa and eventual mention of the most important economic species but introduce provisional keys to or enumerations of the species themselves, a lamentable position halfway between a Genera Plantarum and a Species Plantarum. I would strongly advise to return to the old, clean scheme which has less pretensions, is more easily used, and more rapidly compiled. This last point is certainly not to be neglected from the scientific point of view.

This brings another point to the fore, viz the issuing of volumes according to a natural system. The same aim could have been reached if families had been provided with numbers and could be issued separately. This would have facilitated the making use of the knowledge of contemporary specialists willing to revise a family. In the editing policy now followed no use can be made of specialists in families which have at present not their turn. Few will have the energy and money to have them printed at their own expense as was the case with Miss Perkins's Monimiaceae and Styracaceae printed in 1925 and 1928. I believe the whole work would win enormously in popularity and speed if this technical change were introduced for future revisions. The willingness to collaborate would, in this way, certainly be increased.

Index Kewensis. Suppl. 11 (1941-1950). It is with great appreciation that this new supplement was received (1953).

Botanic Garden Setia Mulya, Sumatra Westcoast. Under supervision of Kebun Raya Indonesia a new botanic garden, called "Setia Mulya", is planned to erect at Solok, westcoast of Central Sumatra. The garden will be laid out according to the same principles as that at Bogor and will serve for scientific purposes; it will be laid out in connection with an existing experiment garden of agriculture. A start would be made early 1954. During the initial period it will be subordinated under the Bogor garden; its future status will be considered later. Officials in charge will be A.G.L. A d e l b e r t, head, T.O. v a n K r e g t e n, curator, and D.R. P l e y t e, supervisor, all transferred from Kebun Raya Indonesia.

New Faculty of Agriculture, Paja Kumbuh, Sumatra's West-coast. Early December 1954, H.E. Moh. H a t t a, vice-president of Indonesia, has officially opened the new faculty of agriculture.

The locality "Simbang" in North East New Guinea as used by C. Lauterbach and others. The locality Simbang appears frequently in the citation of specimens collected by botanists in North East New Guinea before the year 1900. Maps of the area surrounding Finschhafen and the Huon Gulf show Simbang as a coastal village situated a few miles North West of the present town of Finschhafen. Many of the plants reported as being collected at or near Simbang could not possibly have come from coastal situations.

The full story, based on information secured from native constables who were present when the Germans landed in the Finschhafen area, seems to be that the pioneer parties came ashore at Simbang and subsequently consolidated their hold on an area radiating about 20 miles from Simbang. This whole area became known as "Simbang". Subsequently the Lutheran Mission was established at Sattelberg and this section was distinguished from Simbang. Apparently for a number of years the name "Simbang" was used in its broad sense and hence included mountainous country exceeding 1500 metres.--J.S. Womersley.

Flora Zambesiaca. This is a new project considered to cover Bechuanaland, N-S.-Rhodesia, Nyassa Land, and Mozambique through which another big portion of the African continent will be taken in botanical revision; the chief editor will be Mr A.W. E x e l l, of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) London.

The expeditions of Linnaeus's pupils. Dr R.E. F r i e s has mapped the early expeditions in a study: "De Linneanska Apostlarnas resor" (Svenska Linné Sällskapetets Årsskrift 33-34, 1950-51, p. 31-40).

New Agricultural School at Bogor. Oct. 31, 1953, the new building of the "Sekolah Pertanian Menengah Atas" was officially opened; it is situated outside the town proper near the station for freshwater fisheries; director was Ir A. G a r o t.

Prewar loans of Urticaceae to Breslau. Many herbaria have loaned Urticaceae to the late Dr W i n k l e r and his assistant Miss Hilde S c h r ö t e r, by sending them to the Breslau Herbarium. It appears that these loans are no longer present there, and that they have been transported during the war. According to Mrs H. Meschkat-Schröter it is not known what has been the exact fate of these loans, after their transference during the war, but it is assumed that they are unfortunately entirely lost.

Zoological Museum, Bogor. Part of the beautiful show collection containing the larger mammals, occupying one wing of the Zoological Museum of Kebun Raya Indonesia has practically been lost through a fire, from unknown causes, May 27, 1954. Water damage was suffered in the wing containing the bird collection. The building has in the meantime been repaired and Nov. 4, 1954, the Museum has been reopened in the presence of His Exc. vice-president Moh. H a t t a.

Forest Number series Sandakan, North Borneo. Mr G.H.S. W o o d, Forest Botanist, Sandakan, writes:—"I am shortly exhausting the Sandakan postwar A series numbered A 1-5000. As I think having an A series makes an unnecessary complication I am numbering the new series (SAN) 15.000 onwards. The highest prewar number of which I can find a record is 10.802 but there may be higher numbers of which records have been lost. By starting the new series from 15.000 onwards one should safely eliminate any chances of duplication."

Torres Straits. As has been concisely shown in Flora Malesiana Torres Straits represents a botanical demarcation of formidable size in the Old World flora. Up till now geologists shrug their shoulders and generally assume Torres Straits and the Arafura Sea to represent merely a part of the continental shelf which is shallowly submerged. They do not accept any special geological demarcation which might coincide with the botanical one. Apparently Mr J. R a d e has found a number of pleistocene volcanoes in Daru Island, Murray Island, etc. and he believes these have been built on an old "Graben" (= slenk) (cf. Austr. J. Sc. 15, 1953,

115-117). This is apparently a first sign of a reform of geological opinion.

Flora of Victoria. Attention is called to a forgotten, obsolete second volume of the Flora of Victoria by F. v o n M u e l l e r. It consists of 40 pp. devoted to Leguminosae, mostly Acacia (cf. Australasian Herb. News 10, 1952, 8). A copy of it is at Kew.

Australasian Herbarium News. It is communicated in the 14th and last part of this periodical (Febr. 1954) that it will be discontinued. I personally appreciated it very much, though my impression was that the last numbers were less full and complete than the former ones. It is said that the difficulty of finding an editor and the increasing costs of reproduction would be obstructions for its continuation, but this can hardly be accepted an excuse for simple mimeograph-work. If the botanical institutes and C.S.I.R.O. collaborated officially it could be distributed gratis, I assume.

Australian Journal of Botany. This is an extremely welcome new serial intended to cover all fields of botany, also including wood-anatomy, taxonomy, cytology, etc. It is issued under the auspices of C.S.I.R.O., Melbourne. It is a medium for the publication of results of original scientific research in botany with special emphasis on the descriptive phases. Published at irregular intervals. The first volume in 3 numbers was published 1953. Secretary C.S.I.R.O. 314. Albert Street, East Melbourne C.2.

Vhabinoi and Tectona. Tectona was the world-famous forestry journal published in Java through the Vhabinoi, the Society of Forestry Officers. The first volume appeared in 1908 and the last vol. 43 is being published in 1954. It has been decided to discontinue this society and its journal Tectona, as was learned in Dec. 1954. Another forestry journal is now issued at Bogor, called "Rimba Indonesia", the "Indonesian Forest". This is apparently a continuation of a more popular prewar issue called "Het Bosch".

Author's name F.v.M. Miss E a r d l e y points out the desirability of abbreviating the name of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller with the formal F.v.M. We are glad to have complied with Miss Eardley's wishes in the Flora Malesiana. There are many Mueller's and there are even several with the Christian name F.. As the author himself used and preferred this abbreviation it is common sense to adopt it, similar to other abbreviations chosen by their authors themselves and commonly followed, like DC., Schltr, Rchb., etc.

Flora of South Australia. Up till 1950 only parts 1 and 2 had been revised for the 2nd edition by the late Dr J.M. B l a c k. Part 3 was well advanced at the time of his death, and has since been through the press by Dr J.B. C l e l a n d and Miss C.M. E a r d l e y; it was published Sept. 1952. I learn that also part 4 is now in the press.

Botanische Jahrbücher. In 1953 publication of this journal has been resumed with volume 76.

Manual of Malayan Timber Trees. Mr J. W y a t t - S m i t h has started the publication, in mimeographed form, of a series of papers each separately paged and concerned with one family of Malayan timber trees. Hitherto 5 of such papers have appeared, viz 1. Burseraceae, 2. Leguminosae, 3. Myristicaceae, 4. Sapotaceae, 5. Lauraceae. These "Research Pamphlets" are illustrated; scientific descriptions and keys are given and due record is made of native names, distribution, economy. Each species is provided with a field description in which vegetative characters come to the fore. Some gaps in the author's wide knowledge are left blank to invite those on the spot to fill these gaps.

Grana Palynologica is the title of a new botanical journal devoted to description of pollen structures and its use. This is edited by Dr G. E r d t m a n, Bromma, Sweden.

Revue internationale de Botanique appliquée et d'Agriculture coloniale. Dr A. C h e v a l i e r has decided to stop this journal (1954) after he has produced 33 volumes in his capacity as editor. A committee has been formed which proposes to continue the journal under the new title: "Journal d'Agriculture tropicale et de Botanique Appliquée" of which no 1-4 have appeared in 1954.

Flora Siamensis Enumeratio. A new number has appeared, viz vol. 3, part 2 (Jan. 1954) containing an account of the Convolvulaceae, Solanaceae, and Scrophulariaceae.

Sarawak Museum, Kuching. It is heard with much pleasure that the old deficient building of the Sarawak Museum will be abandoned and a new one will be erected. It is expected to be ready by March 1955. It will apparently contain both information on and specimens of ethnography, zoology and botany, both on exhibition and for scientific purposes. The Director, Mr T. H a r r i s o n, is to be congratulated with the fact that he has in the end achieved this most urgent improvement in housing.

Botanical works in Malaya. Compared with many other parts of the Malaysian area Malaya can now boast of quite a number of exceedingly good and up to date works of great help to

both amateurs and scientists. Apart from B u r k i l l 's excellent "Dictionary of Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula" (1935) and C o r n e r 's "Wayside Trees of Malaya" (1940) which are prewar, there have been issued a number of books since the war for which Dr H o l t t u m is mostly responsible. They include S y m i n g t o n 's "Manual of Dipterocarps" and the following works by H o l t t u m: "Zingiberaceae of the Malay Peninsula" (Gard. Bull. Sing. vol. 13), "Orchids of Malaya" (Singapore, 1953), "Plant life in Malaya" (London, 1954), "Gardening in the Lowlands of Malaya" (Singapore, 1953). His book on the Pteridophytes of Malaya is in the press. Mr H e n d e r s o n 's record is the large revision of Eugenia (Gard. Bull. Sing. vol. 12) and his 2 vol. "Malayan Wild Flowers" (1949-1954) were issued by the Malayan Nature Society, forming a "herbaceous" counterpart to C o r n e r 's work.

Times change and knowledge increases. Would naturalists half a century ago ever have dreamt that such a wealth of information would come available?

Botanical works in the Philippines. The postwar record includes the big cyclopaedia on "Medicinal Plants" by Dr Q u i s u m b i n g (1951) and a 3 vol. posthumous work by W.H. B r o w n "Useful Plants of the Philippines", published in 1950 in Australia; the first vol. was presented as a gift from the Commonwealth of Australia to assist UNESCO. Recently 2 popular books have been added by Mrs Mona Lisa S t e i n e r "Philippine Ornamental Plants and their care" and "Philippine Orchids" (with R.S. D a v i s), both issued 1952.

Flora of Java. Work on the completion of the Flora of Java by Dr B a c k e r is steadily continued. Part 13A containing the Compositae by Miss Dr J.Th. K o s t e r appeared Sept. 1953, part 14 the Labiatae by A.G.L. A d e l b e r t (March 1954). Dr R.C. B a k h u i z e n v a n d e n B r i n k Jr is in charge of the families of Monocotyledones not yet published, the first of which will be the Araceae. His revision of the Rubiaceae is finished and is assumed to be out in 1955. Besides, he is busy in verifying the nomenclature of the names of the entire work. Simultaneously the work has been translated into English for a future printing in book form. Dr B a c k e r himself is still busy on the checking of the general key for identifying Javanese plants.

Select Indonesian Medicinal Plants. Most books on tropical medicinal plants are compilations of all data reported. Mrs M.J. v a n S t e e n i s - K r u s e m a n has made an attempt to select from the numerous data those which are known to work or are known to contain some active constituent. The book was published by the Organisation for Scientific Research

in Indonesia, on the occasion of the 8th Pacific Science Congress, Manila, Nov. 1953. - Cf. Bibliography.

Culture of waterplants in Marocco. During the unique excursion in Marocco, just before the Paris Congress, under the most diligent, expert leadership of Prof. S a u v a g e, of the Institut Scientifique Chérifien, at Rabat, there was an opportunity to visit the garden of Mr Marcel F r a n ç o i s, Ir. hort., km 13 Route no 2, par Salé, North of Rabat. It is astonishing how he has succeeded, in a few years, with the aid of water, to create a semi-tropical garden from a piece of barren land, in which succulents and Bromeliads will grow aside subtropical and even many tropical plants (palms, etc.). His main hobby is the cultivation of waterplants, specially Nymphaeas. In passing, it may be remarked that Mr François is very interested in plants suitable for aquaria, on which subject he wrote a book: "Décors exotiques et plantes d'Aquarium" (1951) 241 pp. He is eager to get seeds and plants from the warmer regions, either by purchase or by exchange. This garden is largely experimental and will grow by trial and error. Colleagues supervising greenhouses or subtropical gardens or aquaria are warmly invited to get into correspondence with Mr François whose enthusiasm in his relatively isolated position is warming the heart. His endeavour may gradually grow into a scientific experiment and needs encouragement. Provisionally the idea is to assemble as large an assortment as possible.

Resources of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. This is the title of an edition of Department of National Development, Division of Regional Development, Canberra A.C.T. (1951). It consists of 2 volumes, a large 8^o with chapters on physiography, geology, meteorology, vegetation, soils, fauna, population, agriculture, marine products, timber, mining, trade, etc. (pp. 150). The 2nd vol. consists of an atlas, containing maps of physiographic regions, relief, general geology, rainfall, natural vegetation, agriculture, administration, and transport. This is a most welcome guide for East New Guinea.

Willdenowia. In Aug. 1953 the first part of the first volume (150 pp.) of the "Mitteilungen aus dem Botanischen Garten und Museum" appeared in print, issued by the Botanisches Museum, Berlin-Dahlem, as a continuation of the "Notizblatt". It contains a report on the Museum March 1943-1952, two contributions to the Palmae by B u r r e t (amongst which a key to the genera) and articles on fungous flora of Brandenburg (S t r a u s s), lichenology in Brasil (M a t t i c k), biography of C.C. Sprengel (M e y e r), new African Ficus (M i l l b r a e d), Hawaiian Panicum (P o t z t a l), Hawaiian useful plants (D e g e n e r). A 2nd part appeared in Nov. 1954 in which it is announced that the title of the journal is changed to "Willdenowia".

Australian and New Zealand Botany. This is the title of a first text-book of botany, at University level, specially written for Australia and New Zealand by Drs J. M c L u c k i e & H.S. M c K e e. Plants used for illustrating certain physiological, anatomical, and morphological phenomena have been taken largely from the native floras. Sydney. 788 pp. 276 fig. (£ 3.7.6.).

Nomenclature session, Paris Congress, 1954. The main change in the Rules has been the adoption of the type-method for the sections, the type-section repeating in future the generic name. Various articles have been rearranged and new wordings will be worked out by the Editorial Committee. A proposal for nomina specifica conservanda was not accepted; another one for nomina specifica rejicienda was equally rejected. A small group of English botanists specially interested in horticultural plants still cherishes hope to save some specific epithets. The section could not see much reason to make an exception of horticultural plants for a principle which should apply to the whole plant kingdom. For a report on the voting on the proposals cf. Taxon 3, p. 184-190. See for accepted nomina generica conservanda Taxon 3, p. 233-243.

Codex genericorum. At the Paris Congress plans were made for the composition, on a basis of international co-operation, of a new critical list of nomenclaturally newly examined generic names. The idea is to have this performed in the way of a card index, a model of which was proposed in Taxon 3, Oct. 1954, 213-214. Monographers will be invited to participate. This project is, as a matter of fact, a desideratum of great urgency, as it appears that many generic names have never been critically checked with the present Rules for their status of legitimacy. The difficulty will be to get it completed, as only a small part of the plant genera of Phanerogams are under contemporaneous observation. Another difficulty will be that there are a number of obsolete works which have never been critically examined from the nomenclatural side. Who is to do this time-consuming desk-work?

Flora of the U.R.S.S. In vol. 1 of the bilingual "Essais de Botanique" published by the Academy of Sciences of the U.R.S.S., copies of which were distributed at the Paris Congress, Dr B.K. C h i c h k i n e has given a survey of the elaboration of this great Flora comprising Russia and Siberia and the history of taxonomic botany preceding it. The Flora is planned to cover 28 volumes. The elaboration is by many taxonomists (hitherto 68) and the material serving for it is contained in the Komarov institute at Leningrad (with c. 4½ mill. specimens) and in the herbaria at Moscou, Tachkent, the Academies of the Ukraine, Georgia, etc. Families are arranged according to the Engler system. Twenty volumes have already been

issued, the later ones provided with addenda to former ones (there are on the average 10% additions!). The 21st vol. (Labiatae) and the 22nd (Solanaceae, Scrophulariaceae, etc.) were in the press 1954. In 1955 the 23rd vol. (Plantaginales, Rubiales, Cucurbitales) will be finished. The total flora is estimated at c. 17.000 species. The largest genus is Astragalus with 850 spp. (filling vol. 12). The largest families in sequence are: Compositae 2500 (not yet worked out), Leguminosae 1600, Gramineae 985, Labiatae 900, Umbelliferae 780, Cruciferae 740, Rosaceae 700, Caryophyllaceae 630, Cyperaceae 530, Ranunculaceae 520, together more than 50% of the total! A list is given of the separate volumes; all text is unfortunately in Russian and several volumes are exhausted.

Eighth Pacific Science Congress, Manila, Nov. 16-28, 1954.

The Congress took place in the magnificent new buildings of the University of the Philippines, Quezon City, some 18 km outside Manila. It was combined with the Fourth Far-Eastern Prehistory Congress. There were 20 sections. The Botany section, presided by Dr E. Q u i s u m b i n g, was attended by delegates from many countries. Before the opening of the Congress each delegate received a voluminous book of 559 pp. containing abstracts of papers to be read, followed by a Supplement of 88 pp.

The most interesting item in the Botany section was the "Symposium on Vegetation of regions in and bordering the Pacific", of which a great number had been assembled. This will be edited in the Proceedings of the Congress but in all probability also as a separate book which might be a precursor to a later more voluminous illustrated edition on Pacific Vegetation.

Another item of interest was the publishing of maps of plant areas; it was decided that this would be continued independently from the Congresses. Dr H.J. L a m, director of the Rijksherbarium was appointed editor. Dr Q u i s u m b i n g offered to have these maps published in instalments in the Philippine Journal of Science, a generous offer which was readily accepted. The maps will be numbered consecutively and reprints will be prepared which, after a certain number of instalments, will be bound into books provided with an index.

General excursions were made to Los Banos and Bataan; on both occasions small parties of botanists joined into a small, special excursion. A 5-days post-congress excursion to the Benguet Mountain Province proved to be exceedingly profitable to a party of specialists, the way going North to Banguio (with side-trip to Mt Santo Tomas) and Bontoc, going further North to Mt Polis, a mossy forest summit, 2300 m. Dr Q u i s u m b i n g was replaced as leader by Dr J. S a n t o s, assisted by Mr M e n d o n c a; participants included Dr R.

H e i m (Paris), Dr F o s b e r g, Dr W a l k e r, Dr D a n s e r e a u (U.S.A.), Dr O l i v e r (New Zealand), Dr v a n S t e e n i s (Holland), Mrs S t e i n e r (Manila), Dr R.D. H o o g l a n d (Canberra), Mr & Mrs W y a t t - S m i t h (Malaya), Dr H. S t J o h n (Honolulu), Dr S u t a r m a n (Djakarta), Miss C i d (Manila), and 2 students of the U.P.. During the excursion collections were made by most participants. A private trip to the Manila mangrove included Dr H o o g l a n d and Dr v a n S t e e n i s under guidance of Mr S u l i t. It was learned that the name of the town of Manila is of botanical origin, being derived from ma and nilad, respectively meaning abundant and Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea.

News from Lae. Mr A.G. F l o y d joined the staff of the Division of Forest Botany, Dept of Forests, Lae, New Guinea during 1953. Mr Floyd came from the New South Wales Forestry Commission to the position of Plant Ecologist and Assistant Botanist. He is resident in Lae but his duties embrace the whole of Papua and the Mandated Territory of Papua and New Guinea. Mr Floyd has interested himself in the ferns and Scitamineae since taking up his appointment.

Recent visitors to Lae have been Mr H.D. I n g l e of the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organization, Division of Forests Products who visited a number of localities in Papua and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea collecting wood samples of certain families.

Dr P. v a n R o y e n and Mr C. V e r s t e e g h travelled quite extensively in the Australian controlled part of New Guinea during a four week's tour.

Dr H.J. L a m made an all too short visit during his return journey from Australia to Holland during 1954. Dr Lam's visit proved an inspiration to workers here.

Mr N.W. S i m m o n d s from the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, has recently been in Papua and New Guinea securing seeds and botanical material of wild species of Musa and Ensete. Several botanical novelties and valuable seed collections for breeding purposes have been secured.--J.S.Womersley.

Additional news from the Singapore Herbarium. Mr J. S i n c l a i r, Keeper of the Herbarium, is studying Malayan Myristicaceae. He made a collecting trip to Trengganu (3rd-21st November 1954) returning by way of Kota Bahru in Kelantan. He collected a total of 135 species, of which some 60 are new records from Trengganu. Many of these are common plants in other provinces of Malaya and their first appearance in Trengganu is not surprising since few botanists have collected intensively in this region. Of the 60 species, some 14 are new species and it is hoped to publish details of the new records

and new species in a future issue of the Garden's Bulletin.

Mr C.X. F u r t a d o continues his researches on the taxonomy of the palms in Malaya and is at present working on the genus Calamus.

Flore du Maroc. Publication of a new Flora of Morocco has been started by Ch. S a u v a g e & J. V i n d t, at Rabat, emerging from the taxonomical division of the Institut Scientifique Chérifien. It is published by the Éditions Internationales, Tanger. The first part (1952) xxix + 148 pp., 42 fig., photos, map, contains a revision of the Ericales, Primulales, Plumbaginales, Ebenales and Contortales. A 2nd part appeared in 1954 containing the Convolvulaceae and Boraginaceae, xvi + 267 pp., t. 1-4, fig. 1-42bis. Great attention has been given to infraspecific taxa; of all taxa the geographical distribution is cited and the localities inside Morocco. This promises to be a very critical Flora with keys to species and varieties.

Flore générale de la Belgique. In 1950 a new scientific Flora of Belgium was started in the active centre of the Botanic Gardens at Brussels. From the preface of Dr Robijns we learn that this is planned with series for the whole plant kingdom: Algae, Lichens, Fungi, Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, and Spermatophytes. The first fascicle issued in 1950 finished the Pteridophytes; it was elaborated by Dr A. L a w a l r é e (Belg. fr. 105.-). In 1952 the first instalment appeared on the Spermatophytes, by the same author, in 1953 the 2nd, and in 1954 the 3rd one. This finishes vol. 1. It is announced that early in 1955 a 4th instalment will appear (vol. 2, part 1) comprising the Ranunculaceae. The Bryophytes will be worked out by Dr F. D e m a r e t, also of the Botanic Gardens. For the other series no editors have as yet been nominated. The scheme is exhaustive and will proceed slowly but steadily. It promises to be a modern, up to date, critical scientific Flora which Belgium hitherto did not possess. It can be ordered with the Botanic Gardens, Brussels.

Beccari's Malaysian collections. A numerical name list has been prepared of B e c c a r i's numbered collections from Sumatra (P.S., Piante Sumatrane), Borneo (P.B., Piante Bornensi), and New Guinea (P.P., Piante Papuane).

A separate list has been prepared of the unnumbered collections cited in literature or present at Florence. These sheets have been enumerated island by island, alphabetically in families and genera.

Both lists were prepared by Mrs M.J. v a n S t e e n i s - K r u s e m a n. Copies have been deposited in the herbaria at Florence, Kew, Leyden, and Bogor.

Dipterocarpaceae of British Territories in Borneo. Mr J. Wyatt-Smith is working on the Dipterocarpaceae of the British Territories in Borneo and has prepared papers on the genera Anisoptera and Dryobalanops; at present he is working on the genera Parashorea and Shorea. In 1954 he spent three months (July-Oct.) in Sarawak, Brunei, and North Borneo, visiting forests and paying particular attention to dipterocarps. Two months of this was in North Borneo where he was accompanied by Mr G.H.S. Wood, the recently appointed Forest Botanist for that country.

Lists of the standard timber names of the commoner timbers for the Federation of Malaya, North Borneo and Sarawak and Brunei have been compiled, and the Director of the Forest Research Institute, Bogor, has supplied a list of the Indonesian standard names for purpose of comparison.

Timbers and Timber Trees of Sarawak and Brunei. Mr F.G. Browne, Conservator of Forests, Sarawak, has produced a series of 32 cyclostyled leaflets on the Timbers and Timber Trees of Sarawak and Brunei. These are in process of being revised and will appear as an illustrated manual.

Centre of Humid Tropics Research. This section of UNESCO activities, it is learned, has been provisionally stationed at Bogor, Java, under leadership of Dr T o t h.

Pre-Columbian dispersal of Man and Plants from America to the Southwest Pacific. Chronica Botanica Co is publishing a critical study by Dr E.D. Merrill on the botanical importance of the collections by Banks & Solander during Cook's Voyages. These factual data unmistakably show that the American cultigens and weeds in the Southwest Pacific are post-Columbian introductions. Dr Merrill points out which routes have been followed by the plants concerned. It shows how careful one should be with drawing conclusions from Kontiki experiments. It appears that Dr Merrill has been able to succeed in tearing to pieces many stories which are as fascinating as they are wrong and has replaced these by equally fascinating solid facts. The study was assumed to be issued by Xmas 1954.

Nova Guinea. The last number of this quarto journal devoted to original scientific contributions to the knowledge of Netherlands New Guinea appeared before the war. Publication will soon be resumed. Dr H.J. Lam has been appointed chief editor, succeeding Dr A.A. Puller.

Haviland Borneo collection. Through the care of Mrs M.J. van Steenis-Kruseman a numerical name list was prepared of this valuable collection; copies have been deposited in various herbaria.

History of Botany in France. On the occasion of the 8th International Botanical Congress, the French Organizing Committee has compiled, under the editorship of Mr A.D. de Virville, a very attractive book "Histoire de la Botanique en France" (394 pp., 100 portr., 60 fig., 16 pl.), an account of French genius in our scientia amabilis.

Flore du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi. Vol. 4 of this work appeared in 1953 and vol. 5 in 1954. Both contain revisions of genera of the family Leguminosae - Papilionatae, already started in vol. 3 by various contributors.

Semesta Dunia. (Djambatan, 1952). A rather interesting Atlas of Indonesia issued at Djakarta and in the Indonesian language, largely based of course on data from the former Atlas van Tropisch Nederland.

Baileya is the name of a new illustrated quarterly Journal of Horticultural Taxonomy, issued by the Bailey Hortorium, New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. (\$.2.-). Publication of vol. 1 was started 1953. Editor is Dr G.H.M. Lawrence.

Allionia is the title of a new "Bollettino dell' Istituto ed Orto Botanico dell' Università di Torino". The first part of vol. 1 appeared 1952. Titles belong to the following subjects: Italian vegetation; microbiology; itinerary of a mycological expedition to Somali Land; bot. chemistry of *Mentha piperita*.