

I. EDITORIAL

We deeply regret to have lost three ardent supporters since the last bulletin appeared. Among them the nestor of Malesian botanists, Mr. I. H. Burkil, who passed away at the age of 94, a gentle scholar whom we had the privilege to meet on several occasions and with whom we had a fairly lively correspondence.

Originally a collaborator of Sir George Watt on Economic Products of India, explorer of the Abor Expedition, Assam, later director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, he had a wonderful knowledge of and intense interest in the relations between man and plants. This was probably the reason that he got deeply interested in the botany of the yam family, of which he became a specialist, taxonomical, ecological, morphological and anatomical. He had also a deep interest in the relations between plants and animals, pollination, seed dispersal, subjects now much neglected because of the modern specialisation of biologists. His classic Dictionary of the Economic Products of the Malay Peninsula is in course of a second edition and his learned essays on the History of Indian Botany is expected to appear in book form.

We were shocked to learn of the sudden unexpected death of Mr. N. Y. Sandwith, who was always very willing to give advice in various matters and who helped us with the identification of cultivated New World Bignoniaceae on which he was a specialist. It is sad to know that he was not destined to pursue various tasks which he had outlined to perform during his retirement which was soon due.

It is with very great regret that we have to deplore the loss of our eminent Swiss collaborator, Dr. Hans Ulrich Stuffer, at the early age of 36, on 21 August 1965 at Zürich. He was a man of singular perspective, both a wide and deep knowledge, a fine botanist, with the capacity of becoming a real great botanist. After his studies at Zürich he began in 1953 working there in the Herbarium on Santalaceae, on which he was becoming the great monographer. His way of working was exhaustive: he studied all aspects of these hemiparasites, and in 1963/64 he made a journey to South Africa, Australia, New Guinea, New Caledonia, Fiji, Hawaii and the U.S. in order to gather data on ecology, pollination and dispersal, parasitism, anatomy, embryology, cytology, germination, and to collect herbarium material. After his 253-page Revisio Anthobolearum (1959) he published revisions of African and South-American genera, his ultimate aim being a "Genera Santalacearum" by 1970. He was a warm supporter of the Flora Malesiana, for which he had promised to do the Santalaceae, on which revision he had already begun working. Fate wanted it otherwise; at the Edinburgh Congress

he complained to me that he was not feeling well and thought he suffered from some tropical disease. But his illness was of a more vicious, incurable kind, killing his ambitions and promising future. It is sad to realize what splendid things this highly appreciated man would have accomplished more.

Publication of the Flora Malesiana will be continued with the Ericaceae, one of Dr. H.O.Sleumer's big revisions, too big even for one instalment: Volume I, 6 (4) will contain only the genus *Rhododendron* with 280 species. The second half of the family, of which the MS is also ready, will follow in due course.

The Flora of Java, an heritage which had ripened at the Rijksherbarium before the Flora Malesiana settled there, and of paramount importance for the benefit of the people of Java, who make up half the population of all Indonesia, is continued: Volume 2 (see Research and Publications) will come from the press at about the same time as this Bulletin issue. The text for volume 3 is in the hands of the printers.

During the past year one Identification List appeared, a fairly bulky one, no 24, on Celastraceae, by Dr. Ding Hou.

It is with great pleasure to state that collecting activity in Indo-Malesia keeps steady pace, in Thailand, in the Bornean parts of Malaysia, in the eastern half of New Guinea, in Flores, the Solomons, and in New Caledonia. It should be so, because these floras are threatened with depauperisation through the increase of the people, and furthermore the political future is far from promising for facilitating such exploration in future decades. Though not desperate, the past has learned that we should be prepared for the worst. Some time ago I received a letter from Dr. St.John who worked on *Gouania* in Hawaii from where Hillebrand recorded four endemic species. None of them has been collected in recent time and their habitats seem to have been gone forever; St.John felt working with the herbarium sheets as if he were handling fossils.

Four distinct improvements were made in the housing of taxonomical research. The U.S. National Herbarium has now got adequate space on two floors of the new wing to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. At Kew the Jodrell Laboratory was completed, with its three divisions, viz for anatomy & morphology, for physiology, and for cytology. There is also a lecture room and laboratory space for the education of horticulturists. It is hoped, wrote Dr. Metcalfe in his review of the new situation, that this expansion into these additional fields of research will mark closer cooperation of Kew with the universities which will promote the training of taxonomic botanists. The Rijksherbarium was trans-

ferred to its new building by January 1965. Compared with its old cramped housing it is distinctly spacy; this should be so, because nobody can provide any certainty about the definite building planned outside Leyden. Visitors are delighted to find ample working space and good light; working tables are found in the Herbarium collection but for more prolonged visits also rooms are available. Each room is provided with a working table before the window(s) as wide as the room; rooms are averagely 25 sq.m, with running water and electricity, telephone, boiling apparatus, bookshelves and herbarium racks. For the Cryptogamic and morphology divisions there are laboratories, for cultivating fungi, for cultivating algae under constant temperature conditions, etc. There are also spaces for practical courses in taxonomy, a lecture room, a small museum, specialized libraries for fungi, algae, the Netherlands and the tropical floras, a great development of facilities indeed. At Lae, Territory of New Guinea, a good, concrete, new Herbarium to house the steadily increasing collections was opened this year by Sir George Taylor, in the presence of various authorities and Australian guests. A more extended report is found in chapter VIb.

The cover photograph is the result of a new technique developed by Mr. Hennipman. A fern leaf was substituted for a negative. After the usual processing with chloralhydrate to make the material transparent, a pinna was placed in a cuvette of plexiglass. Such a cuvette consists of a frame, with another piece of plexiglass inside it at a distance of 3 mm from the bottom, as a cover. The pinna is held in its place by an object glass, and the cuvette is filled with water, or with diluted alcohol to prevent the formation of air bubbles. Then the cuvette is placed into a normal enlargement apparatus instead of the frame which contains the negative. The image of the pinna is now projected on the table to as many times its natural size as desired, and printed on photographic paper just as an ordinary enlargement. Mr. E.Hennipman designed the device and took the photograph.

Ferns and mosses are the main groups of cryptogams which so far have fallen within the sphere of interest of the Foundation Flora Malesiana. Both bryology and pteridology have now found a fresh foothold at the Rijksherbarium, and important field work on cryptogams is to be reported: after the Royal Society Expedition to Mount Kinabalu another one is operating in the Solomons; a British Museum expedition worked in eastern New Guinea, and a Rijksherbarium expedition will go to Thailand.

Once more we have pleasure in expressing our gratitude to all the persons who kindly supplied the Bulletin editors with various sort of information, particularly Dr. S.Hattori who communicated data on the progress of bryology, and Dr. T.C. Whitmore, who on the occasion of his visit to the Rijksherbarium, delivered a delightful lecture, from which the Solomons story was compiled.