

I. EDITORIAL

It is a well-known saying that first brains should come, then books, then bricks. As for Malesian botany, emphasis lies for a moment clearly on bricks. But however useful they are, and coming first in abundance at that, we firmly keep our conviction that they come last in importance. Much as we enjoy the building activities which are going on in botanical institutes, yet we will review the main events of the year in the rightful order.

BRAINS. We lost two of our outstanding colleagues and friends. First died Dr Ch. Baehni, who in his capacity as the Director of the Geneva Herbarium, has done much to support and cooperate with our enterprise. Later died Dr K.B. Boedijn, one of the prominent members of a generation of mycologists who still had a comprehensive knowledge of fungus genera. This was why he was able to produce publications (of high quality) on so many different groups. After many years at the Bogor Herbarium, he kept until the last in close touch with the Rijksherbarium and Flora Malesiana. We lost also Dr E.B. Copeland, to most botanists mostly known for his epoch-making work on ferns, and his account of the Philippine flora in particular. In addition he published in his Philippine period on fungi, plant physiology, rice, etc. He died at high age in California, where, after his Philippine period, he was at the Botany Department of Berkeley.

Congratulations are presented to Dr J. Hutchinson at Kew, who interrupted the preparation of his 'Genera of Flowering Plants' a moment on April 7 for the celebration of his 80th birthday. The first volume of this superhuman effort was expected from the press in November. No less proud are we to congratulate Dr R.E. Holttum on his receiving the Linnean Gold Medal. We hope for a long time ahead to be witness of his astonishing productivity. We are also happy to congratulate, if belatedly, Dr H. Santapau, Head of the Botanical Survey of India, with his 60th birthday last year.

This Bulletin has often carried news about nature protection, a subject of necessarily ever increasing importance. One of the finest achievements of the year is the declaration of Mount Kinabalu as a National Park, and the plans to establish a number of National Parks in Sarawak, too; a good occasion to start running a new column 'Conservation', under 'Miscellaneous Information'. Nobody who has an idea of the consequences of nature destruction will ask why we placed this remark about nature protection under "Brains".

Many brains were together at the 10th International Botanical Congress Edinburgh; we have made some notes on this important event in chapter VI-c. The next Congress will be held at Seattle.

BOOKS. Two instalments of *Flora Malesiana* came from the press. First appeared the Cyatheaceae in Series II, containing all the tree-ferns: over 200 species. Dr Holttum and his collaborators are now concentrating on the difficult Lomariopsis-Group. Recently a part of Series I came out, dealing with the second part of the Celastraceae (the former Hippocrateaceae), Epacridaceae, Geraniaceae, and Nyctaginaceae, together 77 species. Completed but still on the editor's desk are the Ericaceae, and the Moraceae (minus the Artocarpeae, now being finished at Kew).

Publication of the *Flora of Java* is now exactly halfway, volume 2 being in the stage of proofreading. Volume 2 of the *Pacific Plant Areas* is still with the printer in Manila.

Other noteworthy books which appeared or were expected to appear in 1964 were the first volume of the monumental *Flora Europaea*, Davis & Heywood's *Principles of Angiosperm Taxonomy*, Stearn's *Botanical Latin*, Airy Shaw's entirely new version of Willis's *Dictionary*, and Corner's visionary, thought-provoking *Life of Plants*, token of British talent and crushing Bonner's negativism on the growth and future of scientia amabilis.

Records of Symposia are more and more adding to the bulk of publications. Among many worthwhile volumes, we like to call special attention to the one edited by J. Linsley Gressitt 'Pacific Basin Biogeography'. This complicated and intriguing problem is here attacked in many different ways and provides much material for thought.

Almost at the same time two different works appeared, both dealing with ligneous plants of Formosa, by different authors prepared but by one draftsman illustrated. Together, these books stand out as one great plea for efficient organisation of our field of science, through coordination and cooperation. The time that a local *Flora* could be satisfactorily prepared by one man is evidently over. Of most problems, such a man cannot do more than scratch the surface, and mend the holes he sees with just another patch. Thus the shoes of Abu Kassim were repaired, as an old story has it, time and again, until they had become so obtrusive and so widely known in the community, that he never could get rid of them, because everybody who found them abandoned, carried them back to their ever more embarrassed master.

In the last issues of this Bulletin, the Book Notices have stood between the Book Reviews and the Bibliography as a swarm of hybrids, which has now been caged. The Reviews will present a personal appreciation, the Bibliography will, as before, be interspersed with occasional informative notes. The eye can easily pick out the titles of books, which have been marked with an ✕.

BRICKS. In botany, bricks are connected with brains through Exploration. Materials that have been, we hope, intelligently selected in the field, continue to enrich our institutes in a challenging profusion. The great mines where at present scientific treasures are being delved are in Borneo and New Guinea/Solomons. Mr Corner of Cambridge, who just returned from his very successful second great Royal Society Kinabalu Expedition, will next year explore the Solomons, where Dr Whitmore began energetic collecting a few years ago. The islands have long been in scientific neglect, although they are important plant-geographical links between New Caledonia and New Guinea. New Guinea itself is another stepping stone, its high mountains linking New Zealand with Malesia, and we therefore gladly welcome the operations of a British Museum expedition and others in the Papuan Alps. A similar project for an intensive exploration of the high-mountain flora of Luzon is still in the stage of dreams.

No less than seven Herbaria interested in Malesia are by now in the process of renewal or extension: Bogor, Honiara (Solomons), Kepong (Malaya), Kew, Lae, Leiden, and Singapore. Particulars are given under 'Miscellaneous Information'. At Kuching and Sandakan, buildings have now been completed although the Kuching Herbarium is again full, and an extension needed.

Most ambitious of all is certainly the project at Bogor, where part of the existing Herbarium has been demolished to create space for the many-storeyed building now under construction. The collections have been housed in a temporary shed. It is our strong and sincere hope that the money, materials, and labour will keep forthcoming for a soon completion of a permanent house for the priceless collections which hold the key to so much knowledge needed by Indonesia for her development.

The removal of the Rijksherbarium must be seen as the first step of two. The second step, of about two miles, will bring, in the next decade or so, the institute to a new building for the whole Botany Department of the University; a new botanic garden will be laid out there in advance. This will be part of a complex of buildings for the whole Science Faculty, which will be erected one by one. The first step is one of half a mile, into the low but extensive premises of a former factory, still overtowered by a huge chimney-stack. Gone is the time that staff-members had to share a room of 3 windows with 4 persons, and that piles of 10 crammed plant-boxes had to be displaced before a certain sheet could be obtained. It is expected that work can be resumed in the new place by New Year 1965.

The general building drive will, we hope, stimulate to a general collecting drive, for more material is needed to learn the particulars of such essential things as distribu-

tion and variability. It will, however, be difficult to surpass the mark set by the Sandakan Herbarium. Big bulky plants like Pandanus are now more welcome than ever; Dr H.St.John kindly wrote for this Bulletin the instructions for their fruitful and painless collecting.

The course of brains, books, and bricks is sometimes affected by one factor: politics. There has been a Malaysia of biogeographers long before Malaysia came into existence as a nation. The obvious way out of this nomenclatural problem is the reversion to the Latin spelling "Malesia" used by Zollinger who created the biogeographical concept, and by Beccari who gave the name to his well-known 3 volumes. The adjective will be "Malesian". The new spelling is now in use at the Rijksherbarium and in the Flora Malesiana, since the beginning of 1964. "Indomalesia" is the word to denote the combined region of Malesia with tropical South and Southeast Asia.