

I. EDITORIAL

The circular which was enclosed in Bulletin 24 has received full attention of our readers and a large number of cards were received. The large majority favours the continuation of our annotated bibliography as it is, not cutting off references on the Australian and Pacific floras, and not discarding the references on the Cryptogams. A review of Mr. Ferguson's Index is given on p. 1912.

October 21, 1970, Foundation Flora Malesiana existed twenty years. This anniversary was marked by a small festivity in the Rijksherbarium. Although curtailed financially since January 1958, it has kept its promise to promote all studies encompassing progress of the botany and plant geography of the Malesian subcontinent. It is gratifying that with the distinct tendency of the rehabilitation of the economical and political situation in Indonesia during the last few years, science in general, and biology in particular, are getting a new impetus. Amongst others through international agreement and co-operation, two master organisations have been set up, SEAMEC and BIOTROP, the latter being the centre of biological studies and education allotted to Bogor. It is clear that this focus will be a great stimulant and will sponsor biological activity. It was particularly pleasant to learn from Professor Sarwono and Dr. Didin, chairman and secretary of LIPI respectively, that this general scientific rehabilitation scheme included assistance towards the Flora Malesiana Foundation. Although the scientific elaboration of Flora Malesiana has been transferred as a major work project to the Rijksherbarium, a necessity since 1958, there are various desiderata left, amongst others contributions from Indonesian systematists. Unfortunately, the net result of Dr. Kostermans's efforts to have promising Indonesian students thoroughly trained and prepared to share the tremendous task still before us, is meagre. Two of them, Dr. Soegeng and Dr. Didin, are occupied with very responsible and very necessary but largely administrative tasks, Dr. Prijanto died unexpectedly, and Dr. Soepadmo spends his time largely on educational matters. Clearly something must be done and we trust that in the near future creative work by Indonesian systematists can be resumed. We shall, I sincerely hope, overcome, and the future carries certainly very promising features for a more intense co-operation. And disinterested loyal co-operation is the very basis of ensuring achievement. It is with immense satisfaction that I see this perspective of a bright future ahead.

It is an equal satisfaction which I feel in the publication of the Flora itself. The publishers firm of Noordhoff

is now fused with Wolters N.V. and a new contract has been signed by our Foundation which is a better guarantee for the printing of Flora Malesiana. Several complaints reached us about the stagnation in its publication. There were other reasons for it, besides the financial side. These have now been overcome, and actual publication is resumed. A fern instalment, by Dr. K.U. Kramer, dealing with the Lindsaeoid group is in press and should be out by March 1971. A second one by Dr. Holttum is to follow. A large Phanerogam instalment will be ready for the press by January 1971, comprising the first issue of volume 7, containing the revisions of Icacinaceae, Lophopyxidaceae, Cardiopteridaceae, and Clethraceae (all by Sleumer), Violaceae (Jacobs & Moore), Haloragaceae (van der Meijden), Ochnaceae (Kanis), Oxalidaceae (Veldkamp), Portulacaceae (Geesink), and Byblidaceae (van Steenis). A second instalment is in preparation containing Labiatae (Keng), Taccaceae (Drenth), Crypteroniaceae (Mrs. van Beusekom-Osinga), Lecythydaceae (Jacobs & Payens), Passifloraceae (de Wilde), Lemnaceae (den Hartog & van der Plas), and Potamogetonaceae (den Hartog). A third instalment is also almost ready for the press, viz. on Fagaceae (Soepadmo) and a fourth one on Cyperaceae (Kern), while Moraceae (Corner & Jarrett) wait for completion. Work is further progressing on Ulmaceae (Soepadmo), Lauraceae (Kostermans), Anacardiaceae (Ding Hou), Dipterocarpaceae (Ashton), Sapindaceae (Leenhouts), Rosaceae (Kalkman), and Sabiaceae (van Beusekom).

Though I had anticipated to have about 10 volumes finished by my retirement in 1972, progress in effective publication has been slower than I formerly assumed, but I feel very happy that the lagging behind is not more than some five to eight years.

May this exposé of retrospect and prospects encourage my faithful collaborators to contribute to the large task lying ahead.