

## OBITUARY

Dr A. W. KLOOS (1880—1952).

At the end of the previous number of "Blumea" could just be inserted the death notice of one of the honorary collaborators of the Rijksherbarium, Dr Ir A. W. Kloos, who passed away in his home at Dordrecht on June 3rd, 1952. A more detailed obituary may follow here.

Abraham Willem Kloos was born at Wormerveer on April 10th, 1880. At West-Knollendam he attended his father's school, afterwards went to the secondary school at Zaandam, and, in 1903, he took his degree as a civil engineer at Delft. Then, from 1904 till 1905 he worked as a teacher to the Nautical School, Schiermonnikoog, and from 1905 till 1911 he taught at the Secondary School, Goes. In the latter year Kloos was appointed to the Technical School, Dordrecht, where he worked until his retirement in 1945.

Though Kloos was not a professional botanist, he felt much attracted to taxonomy, and in his younger years already his development as one of the leading students of the Netherlands flora began. In his native town, Wormerveer, with its many flour-mills etc. he got an early opportunity of studying the adventive flora, and great was his pleasure in taking to school especially those rare species unknown to his teacher. "You'll always bring along such rare things as nobody has ever seen", the latter would exclaim. And that was just a thing young Kloos liked.

This early acquaintance with various aliens, no doubt, has been of great significance for Kloos' botanical development. The adventitious flora of his native country kept him interested during his whole life, and on account of his profound knowledge of it, he was an oracle for many. But besides his interest in the original Netherlands flora was keen, which his papers on various genera may show, e.g. *Veronica*, *Euphrasia*, *Viola*, *Thymus*, *Utricularia*, *Alchemilla*, *Potamogeton*, published in "Nederlandsch Kruidkundig Archief". During many years Kloos wrote his "Aanwinsten van de Nederlandse Flora" (Acquisitions to the flora of the Netherlands) for the same periodical, at first alone, afterwards with a number of co-operators. In "De Levende Natuur" may be found his annual lists of new and rare species of our flora. Several revisions of families for "Flora Neerlandica", by his hand are still unpublished.

Moreover Kloos played an important part in various functions to the Royal Netherlands Botanical Society, i.a. he was for many years the chairman of the floristic section and guided personally almost all botanical excursions. All this resulted in his appointment as an honorary member of this society in 1945. His botanical studies induced the Leiden University

to grant him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*, together with his friends and fellow-botanists Jansen and Wachter.

Kloos has gathered a large herbarium, a collection giving a splendid idea of the Netherlands adventitious flora, and comprising a great part of the aliens found in this country. This collection will be transferred to the Rijksherbarium, to be inserted there in the Netherlands section. Very interesting was also his garden at Dordrecht, containing many rare and curious plants, collected during his frequent botanical trips.

During the last few years Kloos has been an honorary member to the staff of the Rijksherbarium. In this function he worked on the preparation of a monograph of *Amaranthus*, for which he had already studied many materials from a great number of herbaria. Unfortunately he has not succeeded in accomplishing this work. A serious operation caused him to suspend his work for many months, and when he seemed capable of resuming his activities, death put an end to his laborious life.

Kloos with his wide knowledge of the Netherlands flora, passed away, deplored by many, not the least by his botanical friends, who have known and esteemed him as the calm, critical man of science, always ready to assist.

S. J. VAN OOSTSTROOM.