

Dr JAN THEODOOR HENRARD

(with portrait)

by

W. A. GODDIJN

(Professor of Pharmacognosy, formerly Keeper at the Rijksherbarium, Leiden).

On October 16th 1946 Dr J. Th. Henrard will have reached the pensionable age of sixty five years. In accordance with the legal prescriptions he is due to take leave officially as keeper of the "Rijksherbarium". The present director, Prof. Dr H. J. Lam, invited me to write a short biography of Dr Henrard on this occasion. Having been Henrard's eldest colleague till 1934 at the institution, I accepted willingly.

Jan Theodoor Henrard was born October 16th, 1881 at Maastricht, where his father, J. B. Henrard, was director of the Weight and Measures Office. There is a legend in the family that the Henrards originated from the Vendée (in France) as descendants of a Huguenot-refugee. Owing to this duties J. B. Henrard was often transferred with his family from one locality to the other; his children got their education in different towns of the country. Jan visited the elementary school at Maastricht. The secondary school he followed at Zwolle and Leeuwarden respectively. At Zwolle he made the acquaintance of two well-known Dutch florists, Lako, a teacher at the secondary school and Carmiggelt, an official at his fathers office. From them Jan gathered already an extensive knowledge of the Dutch flora. His final high school certificate he got at Sneek on August 10th, 1901 (Diploma H. B. S.).

His love and ambitions for biology were evident during his school-years and his aptitude for his future profession could have been predicted by his zeal for collecting biological objects, especially plants. It can take no wonder that the young Henrard wanted to study biology. As a pupil of the secondary school he took lessons in latin and greek, because he aimed to pass the state-examination for admission to the university. His teachers, however, and Prof. Hugo de Vries consulted by his father, did not encourage this line of study for the young Henrard, as to their opinion there was no future for biologists in our country. Consequently, his parents advised him to choose another profession. The result of the discussions was that Jan should study pharmacy, having besides chemistry and science on its program botany and zoology too. Jan Th. Henrard was matriculated as a student of pharmacy at the University of Groningen in 1901. There he studied till 1906. In the years 1904—1906 he was assistant to Prof. Eykman at the pharmaceutical laboratory. These



Dr J. TH. HENRARD
in 1941.

years became a strenuous period for Henrard; his final examinations were delayed and his time was mostly absorbed by chemical analyses for the benefit of Eykmans investigations. He passed his examination as a pharmacist on July 7th, 1906.

Having finished his studies at the university he was a dispensing chemist at various towns. In 1909 he settled down as a pharmacist at Gorinchem. The following year he married there miss Johanna Jacoba Catharina Gorter. In 1915 he moved to The Hague, where he practised till 1922. But his interest in floristic problems and love for collecting plants was never lost! His herbarium, built up from his youth, was developed to a fairly complete representation of our flora. His studies, often regarded by his family as a useless hobby, brought him, largely an autodidact, on the level of a taxonomist of extensive knowledge.

In the years 1907—1910 he got acquainted with several members of the "Nederlandsche Botanische Vereeniging" (The Netherland Botanical Society) of whom I mention here Kloos, Jansen and Wachter (†), recently honoured with the doctor's degree of the University of Leiden. He joined the excursions of the Floristic Club (a section of the afore-mentioned society) and took part in their work, e. g. the cartography of the flora of the Netherlands, initiated by the former director of the Rijksherbarium, Dr J. W. C. Goethart and the Conservator (Keeper) Dr W. J. Jongmans.

In the period from 1915—1921 there came a great change in his life. The neighbourhood of the Rijksherbarium at Leiden, so near to The Hague, stimulated his interest, the more so when in 1916 he was semi-officially connected to the Rijksherbarium as co-assistant. Half of his time he spent on taxonomic investigations, mainly of collections of *Gramineae indeterminatae* in our herbarium.

In 1920 I accompanied Henrard to Austria; we visited the Herbarium at Vienna and were the guests of Prof. E. Hackel at Attersee, who had invited Henrard for different reasons. First to show his gratitude toward Henrard for services rendered during the first world-war. But certainly Prof. Hackel, a well known specialist on Gramineae, was anxious to get acquainted with Henrard who shared his interest in the same botanical subjects. I was really surprised to notice how highly Prof. Hackel even then estimated Henrard's agrostological investigations.

The then director of the Rijksherbarium, judging too that Henrard would develop to a reliable taxonomist, recommended him as a successor of Dr W. J. Jongmans. On March 1st, 1921 he was appointed "Conservator" (Keeper) at the Rijksherbarium. It was a great day for him when he entered the institution as a regular member of the staff, being able now to devote himself in the future entirely to the science he loved most: taxonomy! He had found his real destination at last! He set aside his business and as soon as his new house was ready he moved to Oegstgeest near Leiden in 1923.

From 1915 onward publications from his hand regularly appeared. The rich material of the *Gramineae*-collections allowed Henrard to make a profound study of various genera. *Novae species* were published in Fedde's Repertorium. In 1926 his first farther-reaching study was issued in the "Mededeelingen van 's Rijks Herbarium": A Critical Revision of

the Genus *Aristida*". In 1929 he wrote his "Monograph of the genus *Aristida*", the first part of which was accepted by the Faculty of Science at the University of Utrecht as a thesis for a doctorate. On July 3rd he took his degree. His promotor was Prof. Dr A. Pulle, professor of Plant Taxonomy. By that time Henrard had become known as a specialist on *Gramineae*, whose work excels by minute accuracy. For a review of his publications I refer to the bibliography underneath, compiled by Mr Van der Hee.

In May 1930 he attended the International Botanical Congress at Cambridge and was elected a member of the International Committee for Nomenclature, representing our country.

On May 31st, 1940 he met with a regrettable accident. A collision between a tramway-car (he was standing on) and a German motor-truck was cause of the loss of his right eye. He took his fate bravely and, recovered, he worked at the museum as before.

In December 1940 he was admitted as a private lecturer at the University to give lectures on taxonomy and geography, and more particularly agrostology.

Quite recently (1946), the "Pieter Langerhuizen Lambertuszoon" Fund made a loyal gesture towards Henrard by granting an allowance which will enable him to publish his "Monograph of the genus *Digitaria*". Indeed a worthy close to his official career!

To the minor items to be mentioned here belongs his interest in amateur societies of natural science. He is chairman of the local department of the "Nederlandsche Natuurhistorische Vereeniging" (Neth. Society of Natural Science) and President of the "Nederlandsche Malacologische Vereeniging" (Neth. Malacological Society) ever since its foundation in 1934. He is interested in Malacology too and he possesses a considerable collection of Mollusca.

At the end of his career Dr Henrard may look back with satisfaction upon a well-used life.

All scientists who came in contact with him will agree with my wish: may several years of health be granted to him to continue his valuable studies privately.