

III. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

The MS Flora of the Bismarck Archipelago, by Father G. P e e k e l has, fortunately, escaped being destroyed during World War II. It is a large work in which over 1000 species are described each one accompanied by an accurate line drawing. Father Peekel shared imprisonment with the Japanese at Rabaul during the war. He is now back on his post and has taken the MS flora with him. A microfilm of it was made and entrusted to the Missions Board at Sydney.

A mimeographed tentative program for the preparation of a Flora of China prepared by doctors E.H. Walker and H.H. Bartlett was received August 1947. (10 typed pp.) Its desirability needs no stress here. To a certain extent Malaysia and China represent the only two wide spaces of the globe of which no serviceable flora exists. "A Flora of China would be an asset of primary importance in China's scientific growth. The authors state that there are enough trained Chinese botanists to prepare such a flora with the possible collaboration of certain non-Chinese botanists, but under present working conditions the Chinese have no access in China to the necessary collections and literature. If their efforts could be coordinated, and if they were enabled to visit the United States to work at the places most appropriate for their specialties, a manuscript could be prepared. Through inter-institutional loans the American-held Chinese material ought to be assembled by families, and preparation of large parts of the flora could proceed simultaneous. The whole project could be brought to a sufficiently definite conclusion within five to ten years for a first edition. An immediate start ought to be made with materials now in hand."

Some letters are clipped to the mimeograph. Mr A. P e n - T u n g S a h, secretary-general of the Academia Sinica, Nanking, reports Aug. 1946 that the Academy is still in progress of transferring personnel and equipment from West China to Nanking and Shanghai. The Institute of Botany is under Directorship of Dr C h u n g - l o L o.

Dr H.H. H u, Director of the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology, Peiping, Dec. 1946 writes that the council meeting of the Academia Sinica, Oct. 1946, passed a resolution to gather together the botanists of the U.S.A. and China to write a flora of China, and the Botanical Institutes of the Academia Sinica and the National Academy of Peiping and the Fan Memorial Institute are authorized to organize a committee to make the necessary preparation for this important undertaking.

Mr J. R o b i n s o n, Acting Chief, China Branch, Far East Division, Office of Intern. Inform. and Cult. Affairs, Departement of State, Wash. DC., hopes to offer later something definite on the Fulbright Bill with regard to finance the working of Chinese botanists in the U.S.A.

Mr Y.L. K e n g, Dep. of Biol., National Central University, Nanking, wrote March 2, 1947, that during the years of wartime he and his son have prepared at Chungking, a systematic list of the families and genera of Spermatophytes of China. It contains more than 220 families (in broad sense) and 2400 genera of Chinese plants. The diagnoses are also given for the subfamilies and tribes under each family. Recently he showed this list to Dr Hu, who, after looking into its contents, has written a preface in Chinese. He would like to have this list published no later than 1947, because it is on one hand quite useful in his taxonomic class and it may be regarded on the other hand as a basis for the writing of the Flora of China.

Wartime work and publications in Germany were studied by Dr A.H. A l s t o n of the British Museum, who prepared a report, Nov. 1946, for the Military Government, intended to be published. The valuable data collected by Dr Alston we hope to receive soon.