

## I. EDITORIAL

Since the last Bulletin was published we have to regret the loss of one of the last of the Mohikans of the Treub period of 's-Lands Plantentuin (Kebun Raya Indonesia) at Buitenzorg (Bogor), namely of Dr. Charles B e r n a r d, born 1876 in Geneva, who died at Amsterdam, 29th July 1967, aged 90.

He studied at Geneva, finished his education by getting his degree in 1894, after which he remained for six years assistant to Prof. Dr. R. Chodat under whom he prepared a doctor's thesis in 1901 (published 1903) on the embryology of some parasitic plants which led him to consider *Lathraea* as a scrophulariaceous genus.

Soon after he continued work at Berlin during one year and was for one year, in 1903, appointed Custodian of the Rijks-herbarium, Leyden.

In 1906 he was appointed Chief of the Treub Laboratory of the Botanic Gardens, Bogor, but already the next year he became director of the Tea Experiment Station at Bogor, a post he held till 1928, when he became director of the Department of Agriculture; he retired and returned to Switzerland in 1933, settling at Geneva. As a representative of the Netherlands Red Cross he did a lot of good work for the Dutch people during and shortly after the war; he was naturalized in 1928. The post-war period of his life he dedicated to the preservation of nature; in 1948 he erected the International Nature Preservation Union of which he was a president until his death.

He was a gifted, exceptionally active and versatile, pleasant man. His varied interest is also obvious from his scientific-botanical publications of which those on pure botany dated of course largely from his early years 1900-1907; but he continued them also later. He made a substantial study on the world distribution of *Ulmaceae*, his major works being accounts of *Protococcaceae* & *Desmidiaceae* in Java and two other papers on unicellular algae of Malesia and New Guinea. Besides, he worked on some terata and together with his compatriot Dr. A. Ernst published an important series of publications on the anatomy, embryology, and morphology of Javanese saprophytes (1909-1914). But he published also on assimilation and cytology, on the anatomy of conifers, on fungi, both parasitic and not, on the significance of latex, etc.

Most of his scientific work of his Java period is of course of the applied kind, mainly devoted to the cultivation of tea in all its aspects, diseases and pests, fermentation, green-manures, yeasts, etc., in all over 250 papers.

We have the pleasure to welcome to our Flora Malesiana staff Mr. J. F. V e l d k a m p who is finishing Oxalidaceae, and Mr. J. M u l l e r who as an expert palynologist will work together with the Flora Malesiana team in extending its research with systematic-palynological data. In fact he did so in the past on Sonneratia, on the peat-composition of Borneo, and rather recently on Barringtonia and Ochnaceae.

During the whole year 1967 Dr. E. S o e p a d m o worked at Leyden, on a grant from Z.W.O.; assisted by Dr. M. Jacobs for redactional problems he managed to tackle all Fagaceae, a massive work. He composed the three precursors on Quercus, Castanopsis, and Lithocarpus, in all with c. 200 recognized species and he finished also the Flora Malesiana version including Trigonobalanus; the fifth genus, Nothofagus, will be done by the senior editor. A magnificent achievement for which congratulations are due.

Two other medium to large families are attacked. Dr. K e n g (Singapore) composed an almost complete precursor on Labiatae and Prof. F. M a r k g r a f (Zürich) is engaged in preparing a revision of the Apocynaceae.

During the first half of the year, Dr. A. J. G. H. K o s t e r m a n s worked at the Rijksherbarium on the species of several genera of Lauraceae (among which Cryptocarya), while he finally tried to sort out the large genus Litsea.

Dr. C. d e n H a r t o g went on a half year research tour to Australia, mainly focussing attention on waterplants (marine and fresh water), both cryptogams and phanerogams, especially hunting marine phanerogams. In various centres he was generously assisted by our Australian colleagues for which we owe them our warm thanks. Results seem to be most promising, as is usually the case if a specialist can devote himself to restricted goals.

The senior editor amused himself with desk work in making a number of revisions or monographs of his students and promovendi ready for the press: Barringtonia (Payens), Cratogeomum (Gogelein), Saraca (Zuyderhoudt), Ochnaceae (Kanis), Platycerium (de Joncheere), Gaertnera (van Beusekom), Sarcotheca & Depania (Veldkamp) and supervising the printing of the third volume of Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink Jr, Flora of Java, and the last instalment of Flora Malesiana volume 6 covering the large second part of Ericaceae by Dr. Sleumer.

The following publications are prepared or are in preparation for Flora Malesiana volume 7: Addenda et Corrigenda and Index to volume 6; and for the first part of volume 7: revisions of Haloragaceae (van der Meyden & Caspers), Onagraceae (Dr. P.H. Raven); Violaceae (Jacobs & Moore), Oxalidaceae (Veldkamp), and Clethraceae (Sleumer).

The prospects for families of which revisions will be ready or are far advanced are: several fern groups by Prof. Holttum & Dr. Kramer, Portulacaceae (Geesink), Fagaceae (Dr. Soepadmo), Cyperaceae (J.H.Kern), Potamogetonaceae (Dr. den Hartog), Lecythidaceae (Payens), Passifloraceae (de Wilde), Crypteroniaceae (Miss Osinga), Sabiaceae (van Beusekom), Winteraceae (Vink), whilst Dr. Keng prepared a first version of the Labiatae. Several other medium or large families are still actually worked on: Moraceae, Anacardiaceae, Sapindaceae, Dipterocarpaceae, Icacinaceae, Rosaceae, and Caesalpiaceae.

From this it appears that progress and prospects are not too bad. Though some of my collaborators sometimes, in a depressive mood, presume that the work will never be completed, they should detach themselves from the very present and envisage that in a few decades more we will be over half way. The work is long-range but in no way different from other regional floras which were completed in the former century. We are looking forward to actual collaboration in both Singapore and Bogor, the first signs of which become clearly visible, now trained Indonesian botanists will revive activity at the Bogor Herbarium.

Also the growth of the herbaria in the Indo-Malesian area gives reason to optimism. In Kepong, Bogor, Kuching, Sandakan and Lae, new and better adapted buildings have been erected, and that in Singapore was well repaired. Our frontispiece shows that also in Brisbane the situation will soon be greatly improved; unfortunately only as regards space, not personnel. It is regretted that one of the two expert-experienced botanists, Mr. L. S. Smith, who was so well on the way in most important work on the so little explored Queensland rain-forest flora, which certainly contains still many vital problems, was assigned to make a detailed study on Lantana. It is a regretful situation that the Brisbane Herbarium which is the only taxonomic centre in the immense area of Queensland, is subordinated to the Department of Agriculture which is only interested in this kind of applied botany. The Herbarium should be either affiliated to the University or be an independent body under the Ministry of (Science and) Education to pursue the scientific investigation of the Queensland flora, while the Department of Agriculture should have its own applied botanists for the kind of work now assigned to Mr. Smith. I hope that at some time in the near future such reorganisation will take place, before all the rain-forest has disappeared. May the new building be the first step towards this end.

Annales Bogorienses. After a long interval a new issue has appeared of the Annales, volume 4, part 3, August 1967. This is entirely filled with contributions of young Indonesian botanists: Dr. Lubis on alkaloid production in *Datura* hybrids, Dr. Muljadi on the effect of diet on the free amino acids in a locust, Mr. Hutomo on the embryology of *Mucuna bennettii* F.v.M., and Dr. Saono on the stimulation of carotene producing yeasts in sexual reproduction of *Zygorhynchus*. They are mostly parts of Ph.D. theses, one in Nottingham, one in Adelaide, and one in Moscow. The Director of the National Biological Institute (NBI), as Kebun Raya with its institutes is now known, Prof. Dr. Otto Soemarwoto expresses in his foreword his pleasure with the fact that a generation of young biologists is now perpetuating the scientific work at NBI, after having received their training abroad. We share his hope that they will gradually bring the quality of research to the former high level, and that they may serve as a nucleus for the future.

After having reminded that 17th May, 1967, was the 150th anniversary of the Botanic Gardens, he finds the rebuilding of its scientific importance and standing "a great challenge and as such exciting". May he be rewarded for his arduous attempts towards this end.