

## II. PERSONAL NEWS.

Mr R.E.H o l t t u m, Director of the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, who was on leave in England from July to mid-November, reported that Mr C.X.F u r t a d o has returned to Singapore and is working on the genus Calamus as part of his revision of the Palmae of the Malay Peninsula. Mr Holttum 'aims at getting a revised Flora of the Malay Peninsula written, of which he himself will be responsible for most of the Monocotyledones except Aroids and Palms. Mr M.R.H e n d e r s o n is working on some families of Dicotyledones. This Flora must be fuller than Ridley's, and with sufficient introductory matter and illustrations to make it intelligible to the ordinary resident who is prepared to take some interest in local plants'. Mr Holttum will retire in 1950; he will then devote his time to revise Flora Malesiana, series II, Pteridophyta. Mr Holttum spent a fortnight in Holland, in October, and discussed the contributions to Flora Malesiana which can be prepared at Singapore on the basis of mutual cooperation.

Dr A.J.G.H.K o s t e r m a n s has been appointed Forest Botanist in the Forest Experiment Station, Buitenzorg, Java. He has resumed his studies on the Malaysian Lauraceae.

Dr M.A.D o n k, mycologist of the Herbarium, Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg, Java, returned from leave, Sept. 1947, to resume duties at Buitenzorg.

Dr S.B l o e m b e r g e n, botanist in the Herbarium, Buitenzorg, Java, returned to Java, Oct. 1947; he will be mainly engaged in revising the genera of erect palms of Malaysia.

Mr P.G r o e n h a r t returned from leave to Buitenzorg, Java, Sept. 1947, where he will work in revising Malaysian lichens; during the past year he worked at the Leyden Herbarium.

Dr J.H e i m a n s has been appointed professor of botany (taxonomy, genetics) in the Amsterdam University, 1947, as a successor to Prof. Dr Th.J.Stomps; Dr Heimans has published several papers on plant geography of the Netherlands, and has specialized in Desmidiaceae.

Dr R.v a n d e r W i j k has been appointed professor of botany (taxonomy and morphology) at Groningen University, Holland, 1947, as a successor to the late Dr Danser; Dr van der Wijk has specialized in Musci, and is working on Fissidens.

Dr H.J.V e n e m a has been appointed professor of botany (taxonomy, dendrology and plant-geography) at the Agricultural College, Wageningen, Holland, 1947, as a successor to Dr Jeswiet; Dr Venema is specially interested in dendrology.

Dr J.G.B.B e u m é e has been appointed lecturer in botany at the Agricultural College, Wageningen; specially for taxonomy and plant-geography of tropical plants; Dr Beumée was formerly Head of the Herbarium, Buitenzorg (1924-1931), subsequently director of the Agricultural Research Station at Buitenzorg, and Head of the Agricultural Service in Java; he is preparing a revision of Dichapetalaceae for Flora Malesiana.

Dr A.C.S m i t h wrote Oct. 7, 1947, that he worked in Fiji for a couple of months on some isolated forested ranges rising out of the grasslands of western Viti Levu. After that he made a base at Nandarivatu, in north-central Viti Levu at 2700 ft from where he could cover a good part of the montane forests. The first 5 months of field work have been reasonably profitable and Dr Smith collected 2300 numbers, with 10 dupl. of each. The final months he will spend on Vanua Levu and perhaps Ovalau. He plans to return to the U.S.A. in Jan.1948 and should be back by the middle of Febr. in Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

Miss Dr J.K o s t e r stayed some time in Switzerland, specially for examining some Composites in the Herbarium of De Candolle, at Geneva.

On the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg, Prof.Dr V.J.K o n i n g s b e r g e r and Dr Fr. V e r d o o r n were awarded the honorary membership of the Gardens.