

I. EDITORIAL

The rapid accumulation of data necessitated the issue of a new bulletin. It was with deep gratitude that I remembered, in the Xmas holidays during which I was compiling this text, the many letters received from various sides expressing appreciation for our enterprise. Editor's hearts need sometimes a little warming; ours remains distinctly encouraged.

Particular encouragement I got from the British Colonial Office which, stimulated by the Government of Malaya, has given a grant to our Foundation to cover part of the travel and accomodation expenses of Dutch collaborators in the United Kingdom, provisionally for two years. This manifest

sign of appreciation from the British and Malayan Governments for our work is significant and most gratefully remembered here.

A great event in the history of the Flora I judge the agreement with Mr A.H.G. Alston and Dr R.E. Holttum on the start of the compilation of series II Pteridophyta, for which they will act as responsible editors. Both have great fame in pteridology and wide experience with Malaysian pteridophytes and are in the prime of life.

Among the Trustees of the Foundation mentioned on pp.282 and 399 the Keeper of the Herbarium Bogoriense, Dr M.A. Donk, has retired and has ex officio been replaced by Mr Anwari Dilmy, formerly of the Forestry Service in Indonesia. We are glad to learn of the safe return, from Chile and Juan Fernandez Island, of Dr C. Skottsberg. We are very much concerned with Dr Merrill, whose health has been severely affected by a stroke followed by paralysis, leaving only a faint hope of complete recovery.

Some very dear colleagues have passed away. My former professor of systematic botany and plant-geography, Dr A.A. Pulle, of Utrecht, who has revived scientia amabilis in Holland and to whom so many Dutch systematists owe so much kindness and education, reached the age of 77. Dr Jansen, who made extensive studies on the Gramineae for our Flora was only 73 years old. We lost also Dr G. Kükenthal, Coburg, the famous cyperologist, who prepared the revision of the Rhynchosporoideae.

The forthcoming 2nd part of volume 5 of the Flora will contain a list of abbreviations used in F.M. for serials and for some books (M.J. van Steenis-Kruseman), and revisions of the Malpighiaceae (Jacobs), Proteaceae (Sleumer), Burseraceae (Kalkman, Lam & Leenhouts), Pentaphylacaceae and Betulaceae (van Steenis).

We are happy to have this Bulletin illustrated with a snapshot of Dr Ridley on his hundredth birthday Dec. 10, 1955. This went off very well and the centenarian enjoyed it, immensely we think, as did his charming wife. There were numerous visitors and telegrams and his portrait was on the television and in many papers. The first visitor was Sir Edward Salisbury who brought an address of congratulation from the President of the Royal Society, beautifully bound in leather. The Kew Herbarium sent a card decorated with sketches of species named after Ridley, signed by all botanists of the staff. The Singapore Botanic Gardens sent some orchids by air. At Singapore and in Malaya Ridley's name was kept in various manners; in the Gardens the fine trees were

floodlit at night and all letters of the day were postmarked with Ridley's name. Mr Burkill Jr prepared an exhibition of Ridleyana. The director, Mr Purseglove, published an exceedingly nice folio pamphlet on Dr Ridley's work and its importance for Malaya in general, and the Singapore Botanic Gardens in particular.