



Dr P. JANSEN (1882—1955)

On April 2nd of this year Dr P. Jansen, agrostologist and honorary member of the staff of the Rijksherbarium, suddenly passed away at Amsterdam, 73 years old.

Pieter Jansen was born at Rotterdam on January 25th, 1882. Trained to be a teacher, his appointment as such followed in 1900. His study in mathematics soon led to his appointment to a secondary school at Rotterdam and afterwards, in 1912, to the Municipal Training School for Teachers at Amsterdam, of which he filled the post of director from 1936 until his retirement a few years ago.

Beside his extensive educational task and his studies in mathematics, Jansen spent much of his time on botanical work, especially with regard to the flora of the Netherlands. From this work resulted a considerable number of papers, mainly on Gramineae, and an important herbarium. The greater part of these papers was published in collaboration with his friend and colleague Wachter. Their large common collection is known as the herbarium Jansen & Wachter. It has been incorporated now in the Rijksherbarium.

Most of Jansen's papers on Dutch grasses may be found in the series entitled "Floristische Aanteekeningen", "Grassen langs de Zuiderzee", and "Grassen om het IJsselmeer", all in "Nederlandsch Kruidkundig Archief". Others have been published in "De Levende Natuur". Moreover the Gramineae for the second edition of "Prodromus Florae Batavae" and for several editions of Dutch flora's have been revised by him. The instalment on Gramineae of "Flora Neerlandica", which saw the light in 1951, may be regarded as an extensive recapitulation of his studies on Dutch grasses.

In the last few years the grasses of Malaysia especially drew Jansen's attention. Some of his papers on this subject had already been published in "Acta Botanica Neerlandica" and in "Reinwardtia", but a large revision of the Malaysian species for "Flora Malesiana" was still in preparation at the time of his death. Fortunately others will continue the work on this difficult family.

On account of his important work in relation to the Netherlands Botanical Society Jansen was appointed a honorary member of this society in 1945. In the next year the degree of *doctor honoris causa* was granted to him and to his fellow-botanists and friends Kloos and Wachter by the Leyden University in connection with their important botanical studies.

An active life was cut off, a life devoted to his family, his friends, his pupils, his comprehensive work, his hobbies. We shall miss him at the meetings of the floristic section of the Botanical Society, of which section he was secretary for many years.

S. J. VAN OOSTSTROOM.