

III. PERSONAL NEWS ¹⁾.

At a dinner given by Mrs and Dr Verdoorn for the co-editors of *Chronica Botanica* during the AAAS-meetings at Boston, Mass., Dec. 29th 1946, Dr. E. D. Merrill was awarded the honorary membership of the Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg, Java, for 1946, on the occasion of the 129th anniversary of these Gardens. On behalf of the director, Prof. Dr L. G. M. Baas Becking, Dr van Steenis, in a speech, gave a sketch of the prominent contributions towards the Malaysian flora, which Dr Merrill accomplished in the course of the past 45 years. He is now the greatest living authority on the SE Asiatic flora. At present he is finishing a revised bibliography on the Pacific Floras, in cooperation with Dr Walker, and the past few years he spent in unearthing the papers of Rafinesque and in identifying the scores of new genera described and typified by that erratic biologist. The huge work is now finished; Dr Merrill "felt nearly licked by Rafinesque" as he told us. Dr Merrill who is still in the prime of his life, and who will in the future not be burdened by extensive administrative duties, will, we hope, largely devote his energy to the study of the SE Asiatic flora in general, and to that of Malaysia, which is his speciality, in particular. Prof. Lam wrote a tribute to Dr Merrill (*Natuurwet. Tijdschr. Ned. Ind.* 102 (1946) 153); the journal, its name now being changed into "*Chronica Naturae*" is edited by the Roy. Science Society of the Netherlands Indies of which Dr Merrill is a corresponding member. Number 4 of vol. 27 (1946) of the *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum*, Harvard University, and *Chronica Botanica* vol. 10, nos. 3/4 (1946) were dedicated to Dr Merrill on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

The first Mary Soper Pope medal of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Michigan, had been awarded, Dec. 12, 1946 to Dr Fr. Verdoorn, editor of *Chronica Botanica*, Waltham, Mass., our greatest living authority on Malaysian hepatics.

Mr I. H. Burkill is at present engaged in compiling a survey of 150 years botanical work in India.

Mr C. T. White planned to visit Europe and the U.S.A. during the course of the year 1947.

Dr J. J. Smith, late Keeper of the Herbarium, Buitenzorg, Java, since 1924 working in Holland, first at Utrecht, later at Leyden, died Jan. 14th, 1947 at Oegstgeest, near Leyden, aged 79. He was the greatest authority on Netherlands Indian orchids, and has published scores of papers on this group of plants. Unfortunately Smith never compiled a complete survey or enumeration. A curriculum vitae with bibliography were prepared by Dr van Slooten at the occasion of Dr Smith's 70th birthday (*Bull. Jard. Bot. Btzg.* III, 14 (1937) 99-114), and in the same year a special supplement volume of *Blumea* was dedicated to him. He leaves s

1) The editor will highly appreciate contributions for the news column.

a revised, English-written flora of the Javanese orchids (not illustrated) which we hope will be published posthumously.

Dr R.C.Bakhuizen van den Brink Jr is from May-August 1947 working in Zurich, Switzerland, in exchange against Dr J.Schlittler, from Zürich, who will work for the same period at Leyden, specially on the genus Dianella.

Dr J.Th.Henrard, conservator at the Rijksherbarium, Leyden, has been pensionned Nov.1, 1946. He has finished his world monograph on the genus Digitaria. A grant from the Pieter Langenhuis Lambertus fund will enable him to edit this large revision, of which the MS. is ready for the press. Supplementary volume 3 of Blumea is dedicated to him by his colleagues and friends.

Dr O.Posthumus, director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Buitenzorg, the greatest Dutch authority on Malaysian ferns, was kidnapped by an Indonesian gang of robbers in Batavia, Dec.1945. Originally it was accepted that Dr Posthumus, who during the war, worked at Buitenzorg, and started a new revision of Malaysian ferns and fern allies, was put in jail somewhere, but it stands now definitely that he died.

Dr P.Buwalda, botanist of the Buitenzorg Herbarium died suddenly, April 28th, 1947, at Haren(Gr.) Holland.

Mr E.J.H.Corner, assistant director of the Botanic Gardens Singapore, has joined Unesco. He is appointed as Principal Field Scientific Officer, South American, and Officer in Charge of the Hylean Amazon Project, for scientific exploration of the Amazon valley and to found an international Scientific Institute with field stations for such.

For the aim of making personal contacts for the cooperative project Flora Malesiana Mrs and Dr van Steenis visited England in Nov.1946 and the U.S.A. in Dec.1946 - Jan.1947. They attended the AAAS-meetings in Boston, Xmas, 1946.