

I. EDITORIAL

Instead of choosing for this number a frontispiece devoted to new buildings or persons connected with botanical research we have found it fit to draw attention to the important nature preservation in the Malaysian tropics by taking a design picked from a number of posters made by students in Malaya where a great effort towards nature preservation has recently been made by the Malayan Nature Society. Elsewhere in this issue a more full digest is given of a remarkably well-illustrated and good, instructive book issued by this Society to mark its 21st anniversary, a laudible effort to reduce science, welfare of people and land in future, recreation, and due respect of man for what nature achieved through the ages, to the same denominator. In Malaya an earnest effort is going on to propagate this idea with the populace and with the administration in which foresters, biologists, and natu-

ralists have their share. People should be proud of the natural resources and treasures of their country and this sense of noble pride in fauna and flora, rocks and rivers of the environments of their home-country should start with the schools, primary and secondary, and the colleges. This beautiful book, which is sold at a remarkably low price, provides an excellent tool in the hands of teachers. Other measures are the following: appointing reserves, national parks, and recreation lands, appropriately adorned with signs and posters at the entrances of roads and trails in order to instruct the public. Elsewhere in this issue references are found to great destructions of the original vegetation in Borneo, Hawaii, and the Seychelles. May the exemplary effort of Malaya be followed in other tropical countries before it is too late.

Botanical exploration in Malaysia is still well proceeding and the important new finds in Borneo and New Guinea show that the Malaysian flora is still a most promising ground for plant hunting, not only in the way of species but also for new genera.

Since the last Bulletin was published so much material had accumulated that we thought it wise to publish this before the new instalment of the Flora Malesiana, volume 6², which is in the press, will be published. It contains revisions of the Primulaceae, Najadaceae, Simaroubaceae, Loganiaceae, and Celastraceae. Of series II, Pteridophytes, Prof. Holttum elaborated the tree fern family Cyatheaceae which will then follow. In the following years revisions of several large families will become gradually available: Moraceae, Ericaceae, Cyperaceae, Sapotaceae, Myristicaceae, and Gramineae.

I should spend a few words on our editing the "Identification Lists of Malaysian Specimens" of which hitherto 15 numbers have appeared.

It has been rather a shock and a matter of grief, at least disappointment, for the senior editor to learn during visits to some outlying foreign herbaria from which our collaborators seldom borrow material for their revisions, that this edition has hitherto so to say "missed the bus", at least there. He learned that the proper aim of this herbarium tool, which is deliberately composed and designed for the herbaria of the 'outer circle', has obviously not been clearly understood. In some herbaria instalments were found unused, filed in the library or lying somewhere around in the curator's office, or were partly here and partly there.

The proper use of the Identification Lists is that a Curator selects from his Herbarium the Malaysian specimens of the group (family, tribe, genus) concerned in a List. This enables him to compare the numbers of these specimens with the collecting numbers mentioned in the list. From the List he can then copy (or have copied by an assistant) the identifications made by our specialists on his own tickets, and file the sheets under these names. The residue, which will probably be very small, he can dispatch to the specialist for identification. In this way many herbaria will have the full profit of revisions by specialists without the necessity of packing and dispatching large amounts of material. This simple methodology saves a large amount of technical work and money. I sincerely hope that Curators of Herbaria will give due attention to these lists enabling them with the least effort to bring the names of their Malaysian sheets up to date. After having been used by Herbarium personnel the Lists can be filed in the Library. Filing them in the Library before will sterilize our effort.

In concluding these notes I have to express my appreciation to Mrs van Steenis, who has undertaken to compile the very useful subject index to parts 13-16 inclusive, which form together volume 3 of this Bulletin.

I am also much indebted to my junior co-editor, Mr M. Jacobs, who assisted with diligence in framing the present issue and who contributed various items.