

VI. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

(contd from p. 485)

9th Pacific Science Congress, Bangkok. According to the Preliminary Announcement the Congress will take place Nov. 18-Dec. 9, 1957. Organizing chairman is M.C. L a k K a s - h e m s a n t a, Dep. of Agriculture, Bangkok. Fifteen general subjects have been entered for contributing papers and discussion, viz: (a) Problems confronting tropical botanical institutions. (b) Vegetation types of the Pacific basin, (1) Tropical, (2) Temperate. (c) Ethnobotany of Thailand and contiguous countries. (d) Vernacular names of Pacific plants. (e) Phycology in the Pacific basin. (f) Algal ecology, with

special reference to coral reefs and atolls. (g) Bibliographic problems in the natural sciences in the Pacific. (h) The teaching of botany and the training of botanists in the tropics. (i) Systematics, evolution and distribution of Pacific plants. (j) Botany of medical plants in the Pacific basin. (k) Forest botany in the Pacific basin. (l) Botany of agricultural plants and weeds. (m) Plant ecology in the Pacific. (n) Mycology and phytopathology in the Pacific. (o) Plant physiology in the Pacific.

Besides, a special symposium on Climate, Vegetation, and Land Utilization in the Humid Tropics, sponsored by Unesco, will be convened by Dr F.R. Fosberg.

In the Forestry section the following three subjects have been chosen for contributions and discussion: (a) Reforestation of Imperata waste lands. (b) Natural regeneration of tropical rain forests of the Pacific regions. (c) Natural regeneration of tropical monsoon forest.

Papers as well as abstracts (not exceeding 400 words) in final form must be delivered not later than Aug. 1.

The Organizing Committee will arrange tours of interest for participants during weekends between the sessions and immediately after the end of the technical sessions.

Vegetation Symposium on Humid Tropics of Unesco held at Kandy, 19-21 March 1956. About twenty participants had been invited to contribute to this symposium, organized by the Unesco Office for South Asia, New Dehli, under the leadership of its Head Mr W.J. Ellis and the able presidency of Mr C.H. Holmes, Dep. of Forestry, Colombo. Papers with the discussions held will be published by Unesco. A number of recommendations were drafted. Dr P.W. Richards has summarized the proceedings in Nature (vol. 177, p. 1010-1012).

Advisory Committee of Unesco for Humid Tropics Research.

A meeting of the preliminary committee took place at Kandy, subsequent to the vegetation symposium, 22-24 March 1956. A preliminary version of statutes was drafted and a number of recommendations towards desirable objects, including also recommendations of the vegetation symposium, were enumerated. Furthermore several grants for 1956 were proposed for favourable consideration, notably printing of a vegetation map of tropical Africa, Aetfat index, index of Lauraceae, Supplements to Pacific bibliographies, and a travel grant to enable Dr A.H.G. Alison to visit the U.S.A. in connection with his study of Malaysian ferns.

Projects to be recommended for support should answer to the following criteria: (i) the project should bear on some

subject of general interest in the natural sciences, (ii) it should either directly relate to a specific problem of the humid tropical regions, (iii) it should either be of a nature that can be expected to yield results within a period of two years, or one that can be continued by local support, after initial financial aid from Unesco.

P.I.O.S.A. The Pan-Indian Ocean Science Association created Jan. 1951, at Bangalore, India, which had in 1954 its second meeting at Perth, will held its third meeting at Tananarive, Madagascar, Sept. 1957. President of the Biol. Sect. will be M. P a u l a i n; participants will focus attention in symposia on the subject of Gondwana land, protection of nature, and hydrology of the arid countries surrounding the Indian Ocean.

African Vegetation. July 29-Aug. 8, 1956, a meeting of a number of phytogeographers was held in the Belgian Congo, under the presidency of Prof. J. L e b r u n, at Yangambi, with excursions to the Haut-Uele Prov., NE. Belg. Congo. The aim was to produce a classification of physiognomic types of tropical African vegetation which will be published by M. A u b r é v i l l e, cf. Nature 178 (1956) 1273-1274.

Linnaeus commemoration Uppsala, May 1957. For the commemoration of the birthday of L i n n e u s, in 1702, the Uppsala University has invited a number of biologists from various countries to attend the closing ceremonies of the academic year and to participate in a special symposium "Systematics of Today".

Society of tropical ecologists. In India the need is felt for establishing this international Society which emanated from discussions held at the Fourth World Forestry Congress held at Dehra Dun, Dec. 1954. The Society proposed to hold a Symposium on the "Study of the tropical and subtropical vegetation of India, Pakistan, Burma, and Ceylon" along with the inaugural meeting of the Society to be held at Calcutta, Jan. 1957.

Ford Foundation has voted £ 250.000 in 1956 for building and equipment of agricultural colleges in Djailolo (Malmaheira) and Bima (Sumbawa) and the education of agriculturists abroad. Furthermore \$ 134.000 has been voted for education of advanced students abroad; three officials of Kebun Raya Indonesia would be sent end 1956 to the U.S.A. and Europe for further study during three years, viz. Mr Bimantoro, surveyor of Kebun Raya, an assistant of the Zool. Museum, and Lie Giok Liong, bibliographer.

As part of its Indonesian Research Project, South East Asia Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. is compiling a roster of persons in the U.S.A. and abroad with specialized knowledge about Indonesia.

Indonesian Council for the Sciences. The 'Natuurwetenschappelijke Raad van Nederlandsch-Indië' and the 'Organisatie voor natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek' Djakarta, have been discontinued and together replaced by the 'Indonesian Council for the Sciences' (Government Act no. 6, 1956).

Prof. K u s n o t o S e t i o d i w i r y o, member, Director of Kebun Raya Indonesia, has been appointed leader of the Indonesian delegation to the 9th Pac. Sci. Congress Bangkok, Nov.-Dec. 1957.

V.H.A.B.I.(N.O.I.) exit. July 3, 1954, the Society of Forest Officers in Indonesia concluded that the decreasing membership necessitated the discontinuation of the Society. The last volume of the Society's journal 'Tectona' (vol. 53) was concluded with its third part, Dec. 1955. The journal has been a reflection of the activity of the Netherlands Indies forestry administration and research and will for all time to come remain an immense source of information.

The Indonesian Society of Forest Officers editing the forestry journal 'Rimba' is allotted the task to continue contributions to all aspects of forestry in Indonesia, for the welfare of the forests and their benefit to the Indonesian people. The maintenance of forests and their intelligent exploitation is of essential value for the future of each tropical country.

The Forests of Indonesia. Society of Foresters of Indonesia, Bogor, 1955, 96 pp. This profusely illustrated booklet tells the story of the forests and forest administration in Indonesia chiefly through pictures, though there are several pages of text concerning forest ownership and area, organization of management, and forestry activities. A chart showing the organization of the Forest Service of the Republic of Indonesia is also included.

Geological map of Sarawak & North Borneo. The directorate of Colonial surveys, London, has edited July-Aug. three sheets of a geological base map scale 1 : 500.000 W. Sarawak, E. Sarawak & North Borneo (each priced 1/6) DCS No. 1078.

Herbarium Forest Department, Kuching, Sarawak is now amalgamated with the Herbarium of the Sarawak Museum; the honorary curator of the Herbarium is Mr J.E. S e a l.

Mr J.A.R. A n d e r s o n, State Forest Officer, Brunei, has in preparation a preliminary check list of the species

of the freshwater swamp forests of Sarawak and Brunei; it was hoped to have it finished by the end of 1956.

Flora Europaea. A Committee in England and Eire has been formed aiming at the compilation of a concise Flora of Europe, a subject which has not been envisaged for a very long period indeed. A sample of eventual treatment and printing has been distributed to a number of interested persons, soliciting opinion and advice, particularly on the subject of the language which will be used, Latin or English. The set-up of this work which is planned in three volumes with possibly about 10,000 species appears to be well considered as a preliminary. It is planned to be partly compilatory though as critical as possible under the circumstance that it is strived at to be finished in about ten years. Secretary of the Committee is Mr V.H. Heywood, Hartley Botanical Laboratories, Liverpool.

Flora of China project is a co-operative research project of the Arnold Arboretum and the Continental Development Foundation Inc., New York. Its sole purpose is to prepare a Flora of China with the Arboretum supplying the library and herbarium facilities as well as supervising the operation, and with the Foundation looking after the financial needs and fostering proper developments. Dr R.A. Howard, director of the Arboretum has the overall guidance; Miss Dr Shiu-ying Hu is the botanist in charge. The work has started in making an index of Chinese plant species and genera. Miss Hu has now published the first sample of revision: fam. 153. Malvaceae, pp. 80, 24 pl., containing description and keys to 14 genera with 79 spp. and 31 varieties.

History of the Botany of India. Mr H.M. Burkill has finished the second chapter on the History of Botany in India; he is now working towards the completion of his account of African Dioscorea.

Morphology of Pacific plants. Prof. A. Foster, University of California, is spending six months sabbatical leave in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and New Caledonia collecting endemic plants for morphological studies. Primary emphasis will be on the New Caledonia flora in which geographical isolation has preserved many primitive elements. The internal structure of these plants has not previously been studied.

Trees and shrubs of Formosa. The University of Pennsylvania and the Morris Arboretum have received a grant from the National Science Foundation for preparing a 'Revisional study of the trees and shrubs of Formosa' under direction of Dr J.M.

F o g g with Dr L i as principal investigator.

Botanical investigations, Fiji. In 1954 a grant of £ 12,650 was made available by the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for botanical investigations in Fiji to cover the following fields:

Collection, determination and description of the grasses, weeds and legumes of the Colony and the Western Pacific High Commission territories and the preparation of a Bulletin describing the species, illustrating those of economic importance and giving up-to-date information on their value either for animal nutrition or for other uses.

The grant provided for the building of a Laboratory and Herbarium, the renovation of quarters, the purchase of equipment and the appointment of staff. The botanical collections brought together over the past twenty years are now adequately housed and available for study.

In the terms of the approved program, the Assistant Botanist, who assumed duty in November, 1953, is concentrating on the study of grasses, legumes, weeds, and economic species, including some medicinal plants, and has collected widely.

The first bulletin dealing with the grasses of Fiji, indigenous and exotic, has been completed: The Grasses of Fiji by J.W. P a r h a m. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 30. 61 line drawings and 12 photographs, 166 pages. 5/- per copy, may be ordered from the Director of Agriculture, Suva, Fiji.

Expedition to Siam. Prof. Kai L a r s e n of the Bot. Division, Danmarks Farmaceutiske Højskole, is preparing for a botanical expedition to Thailand.

Botanical Survey of India. After having served for one year as Head of the Survey, Dr H. S a n t a p a u returned to St Xavier's College, Bombay; he was replaced by Dr J.D. S e n G u p t a, plant physiologist by profession.

The botanical survey has divided India into 4 districts which will be surveyed under leadership of four regional officers.

Flora of Japan. In 1956 Dr J. O h w i worked on the ferns and fern allies of Japan which will be incorporated in his flora.

Index muscorum. A new index is now in preparation under editorship of Prof. R. v a n d e r W i j k, Groningen, and P.A. F l o r s c h ü t z, Utrecht, which will list in alphabetical order all genera, species and varieties of Musci. cf. Taxon 5 (1956) 22-23.

Roxburgh drawings. The listing of the collection at Kew has been completed and the final checking of the plates is now nearly finished (cf. Kew Bull. 1956, 5).