

## I. EDITORIAL

The frontispiece may not be particularly exciting to the general public, but this new, modest building embodies the extremely welcome news in representing the new Herbarium of the Forest Service in Sarawak at Kuching. This means certainly a milestone in modern botanical progress in this State. Its establishment is due to the energy and tenacity of the forest officers who have during the last ten years done, and are doing, basic research work on the forest composition of Sarawak and Brunei, and to which the name of Mr Browne, Mr

Smythies, Mr Anderson and Dr. Brunig will always remain attached. Duplicates of the old but very important collections of Haviland and Hose, Moulton, etc. had for years been housed in the Sarawak Museum, but were badly stored and remained a cinderella because the activities of the Museum were mainly ethnographical, zoological, and archaeological. And although there was recently a temporary honorary curator of plants through the efforts of Mr Seal, the situation became unbearable. But fortunately the darkest hour is before the dawn and it is a great pleasure to all of us that there is now a reasonable place where work on forest exploration and taxonomy of Bornean plants can be performed at Kuching. We offer our sincere congratulations with this achievement to all concerned. May the work and the Herbarium blossom forth in abundant fruitful future development is our ardent wish.

The main activities of the Flora Malesiana since the last Bulletin was the publication of the first part of volume 6 which was retarded through various circumstances. The work for part 2 is still under way; MSS on the Simaroubaceae (Mr H.P.Nooteboom), Najadaceae (Mr W.J.J.O.de Wilde), and Sapotaceae (Dr.P.van Royen) became ready; those on Epacridaceae and Ericaceae (Dr.H.Sleumer) were also finished but their publication will have to wait till Dr.Sleumer will have returned from his expedition to New Guinea, the Philippines, and North Borneo; MSS on Loganiaceae (Dr.P.W.Leenhouts), Celastraceae (Dr.Ding Hou), and Primulaceae (Mr P.A.J.Bentvelzen) will be finished early in 1962.

Five further instalments of the "Identification Lists" appeared during 1961 (Tetracera, Erycibe, Campanulaceae, Cyperus, Najadaceae).

Major events were a very successful Unesco Symposium on the "Impact of Man on Humid Tropics Vegetation" at Goroka and two large and one minor expedition in 1961, viz that of the Royal Society Expedition to North Borneo, under leadership of Mr E.J.H.Corner, the Rijksherbarium New Guinea Botanical Expedition executed by Dr.P.van Royen and Dr.H.Sleumer, and an exploration of Sumbawa I. under leadership of Dr.A.J.G.H.Kostermaans.

A very sad news was the destruction of the North Borneo Forestry Herbarium, Sandakan, by fire from too closely adjacent Veneer Factory.

A highlight for the Foundation Flora Malesiana was an unexpected exuberant celebration of its 10th anniversary, October 21st, 1960. Prof.Lam and Dr.Leenhouts had for this occasion compiled a special paper, consisting of a general survey followed by a bibliography of the works performed by the

Foundation's staff or initiated by its multitude of collaborators. Besides, Dr. Leenhouts and Mr. Jacobs had assembled a unique "Album Amicorum", containing a wealth of contributions (over 120), verses, citations, portraits, pieces of diaries, jokes, and very artistic pieces of work, by those who have warm feelings for the Flora Malesiana enterprise. The two beautiful volumes with their unique contents and the first bound copy of "Ten Years Foundation Flora Malesiana" were offered to Mrs van Steenis-Kruseman and myself, in the festively decorated crowded director's room of the Rijksherbarium, as guests of Prof. Lam, amidst our friends, co-editors, colleagues, staff members, and students. We felt elated and deeply touched by the warm sympathy which surrounded us and it would be inhuman not to take a great pride in this mighty personal token of the wide appreciation of the project initiated by the Foundation. The Album Amicorum will be an everlasting source of both satisfaction and amusement. This gift from so many was a very great privilege indeed to receive.