

a chemical laboratory, library, common room, a photographic dark room, fisheries industrial museum and the office of the Professor. The laboratories are provided with twelve bench spaces and adequate fittings for biological work. The chemical laboratory is not fully equipped but as soon as circumstances permit arrangements will be made for providing all the apparatus and chemicals necessary for oceanographical work. The number of books in the library is at present very limited; however, the central library of the University and the museum possess a number of important biological journals which are always available for use in this laboratory.

Though the main purpose of the laboratory is the study of problems having a direct bearing on the commercial fisheries, facilities

are also provided for researches of a more general or fundamental nature concerning life in the sea and inland waters. The varied shore line of Travancore, and the numerous backwaters and rivers support an extensive and varied fauna, which affords opportunities for practical study of every aspect of aquatic biology, and the constant supply of these collections makes the laboratory particularly suitable for such research. The laboratory as a whole therefore now offers facilities for all kinds of biological work, and it is hoped that these facilities will be used not only by students of the Travancore University, but also by visiting research workers from other Indian Universities.

<sup>1</sup> See B. K. Das, *Curr. Sci.*, 1940, 9, 110.

## CENTENARIES

### Richardson, Richard (1663-1741)

**R**ICHARD RICHARDSON, a British botanist and antiquary, was born at North Bierley 6 September 1663. He studied at Bradford School and at University College, Oxford. In 1671 he entered the Gray's Inn. Later in 1687 he went to Leyden and studied Botany under the celebrated Professor Paul Hermann. When he returned home, he practised medicine but did not take fees, as he had ample means at his command.

His main interest was in botanical travels. His garden was considered the best collection of his days. He is reported to have constructed the second hot-house in England. He also collected a valuable library of botanical and historical books.

He was elected F.R.S. in 1712. He made several contributions to the *Transactions* of the Royal Society.

Richardson is acknowledged as having enlarged the list of British plants by persistent travel and investigations throughout the British Isles. He is also said to have fixed the habitats of several specimens.

Richardson died 21 April, 1741.

### Sargeant, Charles Sprague (1841-1927)

**C**HARLES SPRAGUE SARGEANT, an American arboriculturist, was born in Boston, Mass., 24 April, 1841. After graduating from the Harvard University in 1862 and spending some years in the army, he travelled three years in Europe. When he returned to his native land he occupied himself for a time with the development of his garden. This specialisation led to his appointment in 1872 as the Director of the Botanic Garden of his University and first as professor of horticulture and later, that is, from 1879 as professor of arboriculture in the same University.

In 1873 Sargeant was appointed director of

the Arnold Arboretum, which was newly created through an agreement between the Harvard University and the testators of James Arnold, a New-Bedford merchant who had died in 1869. The University set aside 125 acres of land and received from Arnold trustees a little over 100,000 dollars the income from which was to be used for the development and maintenance of a plantation in which practically all of the trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants in the region were to be grown and labelled. Tree knowledge was also to be taught to students.

Sargeant devoted his entire energies to this work and converted the original worn-out farm partly covered with natural plantation of native trees nearly ruined by excessive pasturage into a beautiful park in which 6,500 named species of choice trees and shrubs grow as representatives of 339 genera. An incredible number of hardy plants have been introduced into American and European cultivation through the agency of this Arboretum. To-day it stands foremost in its field.

Synchronously with these foundations for dendrology a library was established which has now grown to 40,000 publications on woody plants—largely at Sargeant's own expense. Sargeant's special field of research was ligneous plant. The fourteen volumes of the *Silva of North America* (1891-1902) with illustrations of every species of tree then known north of Mexico is unequalled in its value. The *Woods of the United States* (1885) and the *Report on the forests of North America* (1884) forming volume 9 of the Tenth Census are his earlier works. Sargeant's full bibliography exceeds 200 items. His very latest publication (1927) fittingly deals with the realised idea of his life: *The greatest garden in America, the Arnold Arboretum*.

Sargeant died 22 March 1927.

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University Library,  
 Madras.