

Chronica Botanica.*

FR. VERDOORN has done a great service to the Science of Botany in bringing out *Chronica Botanica*, a useful book of 447 pages. This is mainly a book of information on the progress of Botany in all its aspects pure as well as applied and the author wants to publish it every year. Its success will depend upon the co-operation of the Botanists all over the world.

The book opens with a letter from E. D. Merrill of the New York Botanical Gardens. There is a timely pleading for the International Co-operation among the Botanists. When the spirit of narrow nationalism is running so high it is very gratifying to read this letter. International co-operation has been successfully achieved by Botanists. The plants have no narrow political boundaries. The real co-operation began with the Taxonomists.

In the Almanac for the year 1935 useful information is given of outstanding anniversaries, meetings of International Congresses and Jubilees of various Botanical Institutions.

The detailed programme of the Sixth International Botanical Congress in Amsterdam, 1935, and its Officers occupies nearly ten pages. In the middle of this, a page is set apart for the portraits of eminent Botanists who passed away since the fifth Congress. It is curious that D. H. Scott, the premier paleobotanist, does not find a place here. A special note has been added about John Briquet (1870-1931), a great Taxonomist who rendered invaluable service to Taxonomy and to the success of the International Botanical Congress.

A lucidly written article by A. B. Rendle, F.R.S., on the history of the International Botanical Congress from 1864 to the end of 1930, when the Congress met in Cambridge is of great value for all students of Botany. He shows how the earlier congresses had combined both Horticulture and pure Botany for discussion. From 1900, when the Congress met at Paris the pure Science is having a separate Congress. The second and third

Congresses were held in Vienna (1905) and Brussels (1910). Owing to the great catastrophe of 1914-18 the Congress could not meet in London in 1915 and the aftermath of this lasted till 1926 when the Congress met at Ithaca, New York. The 1930 session at Cambridge with Prof. A. C. Seward as President, was a great success and it may be said that the Congress has become a normal annual event.

This is followed by accounts of various International Congresses, Committees and Societies. Useful information for those that are engaged in special fields could be gathered from these. Unfortunately no mention has been made of the Indian Science Congress here.

The succeeding chapter on a Review of all branches of Plant Science during 1934 which occupies the bulk of this publication covers 258 pages. The progress of the Science and personal news are treated in all countries in the alphabetical order, commencing from Afghanistan and ending with Zanzibar. The accounts of persons and matters are of real value. In spite of the earnest appeal from the author, the response has not been adequate. While the technical departments have given useful accounts of the institutions, the Universities have not manifested their co-operation. In India seven out of the seventeen Universities have sent meagre information. It is necessary that all the institutions should send as far as possible a fuller account of their equipment and the investigations carried on or are in progress.

This annual register does not seem to be the proper place for correspondence, however useful the letters may be.

The last 103 pages cover the new and changed addresses of persons, classified advertisements of posts, book-sellers and periodicals. Even the laboratory suppliers find their place here.

A short illustrated History of Botany in the Netherlands has its humorous side.

The book should find a place in every Botanical Institution.

* *Chronica Botanica*, edited by Fr. Verdoorn, Leiden Netherlands, 1935, pp. 447, 15 Neterl. guilders.