

NOTES & NEWS

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENT

Dr. H. Santapau, S. J., has assumed charge of the post of Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, with effect from the forenoon of 12th June, 1961 vice Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, retired. We wish to place on record our great appreciation of the wholehearted services of Dr. Sen Gupta in connection with the reorganisation of the Survey and its present position.

We record our gratefulness to the Government of India for the creation of the post of Botanist at Kew Gardens, U.K., and Shri M. Parameswaran Nayar, Systematic Botanist, has been appointed to the post. Shri Nayar left Bombay on the 21st October, 1961 and reached London on the 8th November, 1961. He has started work at the Kew Herbarium.

We welcome the following officers who have joined the Botanical Survey of India during the year:

- (1) Dr. Jagadananda Ghatak as Systematic Botanist, HQ.
- (2) Dr. J. K. Maheshwari, Curator, as Systematic Botanist, Central National Herbarium.
- (3) Dr. D. B. Deb as Systematic Botanist, Eastern Circle.
- (4) Dr. A. S. Rao as Systematic Botanist, Western Circle.
- (5) Dr. N. C. Nair as Systematic Botanist, Northern Circle.

Dr. K. Lakshminarayanan, Plant Bio-chemist, Central Botanical Laboratory, resigned from the Botanical Survey of India to take up an assignment of Associate Scientist in the Lobatt & Co., Canada.

INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

Many officers of the Botanical Survey of India attended the Science Congress held in January, 1961 in Roorkee and took part in the deliberations by reading papers and participating in Symposia.

UNESCO SYMPOSIA AND TRAINING

Dr. G. S. Puri, Director, Central Botanical Laboratory, Botanical Survey of India, attended the UNESCO Symposium on Plant Resources of the Middle East and South Asia held at Peshwar from the 6th to 15th December, 1960.

Shri Gautam Sen Gupta, Botanist, Central National Herbarium, attended the UNESCO Sponsored Regional Training in 'Soil Salinity' held at Lahore from the 29th November 1960 to 18th December, 1960.

EXPLORATIONS BY FOREIGN BOTANISTS IN COLLABORATION WITH BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

As part of the programme of scientific and cultural exchange between the Botanical Survey of India and foreign countries, six Russian Botanists, at the invitation of the Government of India, visited India and collected plant specimens from different regions of India, namely, Shillong, Darjeeling, Sunderbans, Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Lucknow, Jaipur, Dehra Dun, Mussoorie, Nainital, Ranikhet, etc. Our Botanists accompanied them throughout their explorations from 1st March, to 31st May, 1961, and duplicate specimens of all their collections have been retained for our Central National Herbarium.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Records of the Botanical Survey of India

A. Botanical Tour in Kashmir State by T. A. Rao, M.Sc., Ph.D., *Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind.* Vol. 18, No. 2, Price Rs. 7.75 or 12 sh. 6d. is now available with the Manager of Publications, Government of India Publication Branch, Civil Lines, Delhi-8 (India).

Reports of the Botanical Survey of India

Reports of the Botanical Survey of India for the year 1956-1957 is now published.

Out of Print Reprinted Local Floras

The reprinting of the *Flora of the Upper Gangetic Plains and of the Adjacent Siwalik and Sub-Himalayan Tracts* by J. F. Duthie, in 2 vols. is completed and the publication is also placed on open sale after fixation of Sale price at Rs. 17.45 or \$ 4.42 or 29 sh. 6d. and Rs. 25.10 or \$ 6.05 or 40 sh. 2d for plain and interleaved sets (2 vols.) respectively. The publication is only available with the Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, 14, Madan Street, Calcutta-13 (India).

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF BIOLOGY

The Third Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Biology was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 13th October, 1961 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Humayun Kabir, Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs. Dr. H. Santapau, Chief Botanist; Dr. K. Subramanyam, Deputy Chief Botanist, and Shri S. L. Mukherjee, attended the Meeting. The activities of the Botanical Survey of India for the year reviewed and several members spoke highly of the general progress of the Survey.

Dr. K. Subramanyam, Deputy Chief Botanist, acted as the Secretary of the Central Advisory Board of Biology.

INDIAN BOTANIC GARDENS, SIBPUR

Prof. Humayun Kabir, Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, and Chairman of the Central Advisory Board of Biology announced that the Government of West Bengal have agreed to the transfer of the Indian Botanic Gardens, Sibpur, to the control of the Government of India.

REVIEWING COMMITTEE FOR THE BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

The Government of India appointed a Reviewing Committee for the Botanical Survey of India with Prof. P. Maheshwari, as Chairman, and Dr. T. S. Sadasivan and Shri M. B. Raizada as Members. The Committee visited the different section offices including Headquarters of the Botanical Survey of India and submitted the report to the Government which is still under consideration of Government.

MONOGRAPHS ON AQUATIC ANGIOSPERMS

Dr. K. Subramanyam, Deputy Chief Botanist, has completed the monograph on 'Aquatic Angiosperms' assigned to him by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the monograph has been accepted for publication.

AWARD OF PH.D. DEGREE

Shri R. K. Arora was awarded Ph.D. Degree in Botany from the University of Punjab for his work on Phytosociology and ecology of the Humid Tropics in the Western Ghats conducted under the guidance of Dr. G. S. Puri, Director, Central Botanical Laboratory, Allahabad.

Shri R. K. Gupta was awarded Ph.D. Degree in Botany from the University of Poona for his work on vegetation of the North West Himalayas conducted under the guidance of Dr. G. S. Puri, Director, Central Botanical Laboratory, Allahabad.

LECTURES DELIVERED BY OFFICERS OF THE SURVEY

Shri K. S. Srinivasan, Curator, Industrial Section, Indian Museum, delivered a series of lectures on

Museum Administration and Botany to the Second Year Class of the Diploma Course on Museology of the University of Calcutta as an Honorary Lecturer.

Dr. S. K. Mukerjee, Keeper, Central National Herbarium, delivered a series of lectures on systematic Botany to post-graduate students of the University of Calcutta as an Honorary Lecturer.

Dr. H. Santapau, Chief Botanist, inaugurated the Vanamahotsava celebration of the Jute Agricultural Research Institute, Barrackpore, and delivered a lecture on the 'Importance of tree planting and tree preservation in India.' Besides, Dr. Santapau delivered a number of lectures to post-graduate students, in Degree Colleges and Universities on different topics during the period.

Shri R. S. Rao, Regional Botanist, Western Circle, Poona, delivered a number of lectures during the period on the 'Scope of Research in Systematic Botany and Taxonomy of Angiosperms', 'Plants peoples and peaks of Eastern Nepal' at Poona Natural History Society and other institutions.

Shri K. S. Srinivasan, Curator, Industrial Section, Indian Museum, delivered a popular lecture on Plant Hunting in Laccadive and Minicoy Islands at the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

PRESENTATION TO HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE AKIHITO OF JAPAN

On behalf of the Government of India, the Botanical Survey of India presented to His Highness Prince Akihito of Japan living plants of eight Indian roses and four Orchids for introduction in Japan.

MEETINGS

Dr. H. Santapau, Chief Botanist, attended the following Meetings during the period:

- (1) Central Indian Medicinal Plant Organisation, C.S.I.R., New Delhi.
- (2) Selection Committee Meeting of the Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, on the 20th August, 1961.
- (3) Selection Committee Meeting at the Presidency College, Calcutta on 4th September, 1961.
- (4) Publication Committee Meeting of the C.S.I.R. at New Delhi.
- (5) Meeting of the Visiting Committee of the University Grants Commission for inspection of the University of Delhi on the 4th and 5th December, 1961.