

BOTANICAL WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES.

SINCE the American occupation a considerable amount of botanical work has been accomplished on the Philippine flora, under the auspices of the insular government, and in the near future, due to the fact that the appointment of an assistant botanist and two collectors was authorized by the civil commission some time ago, the work will be greatly increased.

Shortly after the organization of the Forestry Bureau in May, 1900, some botanical work was undertaken by Regino Garcia, who had been an assistant in the Spanish Forestry Bureau. Little work, however, of lasting value was accomplished in this office. In April, 1902, the Bureau of Agriculture was organized, and Elmer D. Merrill was appointed botanist. In July, 1902, he was also made botanist to the Forestry Bureau, while in July, 1903, he was transferred to the Bureau of Government Laboratories, when an assistant and two collectors were authorized. The object in transferring the work to the Government Laboratories was to get all work of a similar nature into one institution, and organize a thoroughly equipped botanical laboratory. In November, 1903, Dr. E. B. Copeland was appointed assistant botanist, and Mr. A. D. E. Elmer one of the collectors, the second collector not having as yet been appointed.

In the past two years under Mr. Merrill's direction a herbarium, exceeding 8,000 sheets, has been formed and for a large part identified, a well-equipped botanical library has been established and the following publications have been issued: 'Botanical Work in the Philippines,' 'Report on Investigations made in Java in the Year 1902,' 'A Dictionary of the Plant Names of the Philippines,' 'New or Noteworthy Philippine Plants,' 'The American Element in the Philippine Flora.' The first article was published as a bulletin from the Bureau of Agriculture, the second as a bulletin from the Forestry Bureau, and the last three as bulletins from the Bureau of Government Laboratories.

At the present time, in addition to the work on the Philippine flora being prosecuted under the auspices of the Philippine government,

Mr. R. S. Williams is collecting in Luzon for the New York Botanical Garden and Dr. H. Hallier is collecting in Mindanao for the Hamburg Museum. A considerable amount of botanical material was secured by various employees of the Philippine Exposition Board, this material, with the exception of one set retained in the herbarium of the Bureau of Government Laboratories in Manila, having all been forwarded to St. Louis.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

M. HENRI BECQUEREL, professor of physics at the Paris Ecole Polytechnique, has been elected a correspondent of the Berlin Academy of Sciences.

THE University of Chicago has celebrated this week its fiftieth convocation. It has given its LL.D. to five German professors, including Professor Paul Ehrlich, director of the Royal Prussian Institute of Experimental Therapeutics at Frankfort-on-the-Main.

THE Senate of the University of Glasgow has resolved to confer its Doctorate of Laws on Mr. G. F. Deacon, civil engineer, of London; on Mr. J. H. Muirhead, professor of mental and moral philosophy in the University of Birmingham; on Dr. W. Stirling, Brackenbury professor of physiology and histology at Owens College, University of Manchester, and on Sir William Taylor, M.D., director-general of the army medical service.

THE Turin Academy of Science has awarded one half of the Vallauri prize of \$6,000 to Professor Giovanni Battista Grassi, of Rome, in recognition of the value of his researches on malaria.

DR. GEORGE B. PARKIN, representing the trustees of the will of the late Cecil Rhodes, sailed for New York on March 16 to assist in the holding of examinations in the United States and Canada for the Rhodes scholarships at Oxford.

DR. R. O. E. DAVIS, instructor in chemistry in the University of North Carolina, having been granted a year's leave of absence, sails on April 16 for work in the laboratories of Professors Ostwald and van't Hoff.