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BOTANY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

IN his address before the Alumni Association of Harvard University, President James Bryant Conant, in referring to the reorganization of the work in botany at the university, said:

One of the most pressing problems that confronts us is how to bring the various parts of this University into closer contact with each other. If we are to realize all the potentialities which are contained in our eleven faculties and our more than a dozen museums, laboratories and research units, we must strive for a more unified effort in many fields. I am under no delusion that great results in such matters can be accomplished over night. But here and there we can make progress year by year. Take the situation in regard to botany, for example. We have extraordinary assets which we have accumulated over a period of years, thanks to the labors of such great figures as Asa Gray, John S. Farlow, Charles S. Sargent and Richard T. Fisher, and the generosity of many alumni and friends. These assets include the Arnold Arboretum, the Harvard Forest, the Gray Herbarium, the Farlow Herbarium, the Botanical Museum, the Botanic Garden, laboratories for botanical research in the Bussey Institution and in the new Biological Laboratory here in Cambridge. To correlate the activities of all these institutions is obviously of great importance. Professor Oakes Ames, chairman of the Council of Botanical Collections and supervisor of the Arnold Arboretum, has performed invaluable service in this matter and over a period of years has brought about an ever-increasing harmony of interests. He now wishes to be relieved of this administrative burden and we have been fortunate enough to persuade another distinguished botanist to take it over. Dr. Merrill, director of the Botanical Garden in New York, has been appointed professor of botany and administrator of botanical collections. Under his direction we may expect a still further development of our facilities for botanical research with each unit independent but each helping the other in every way possible.

Dr. Merrill is a member of a number of American and foreign societies. He is known for his work in the taxonomy and phytogeography of the Chinese, Malaysian, Philippine and Polynesian floras, having spent twenty-two years in that part of the world.

Among other posts, he has held that of director of the Bureau of Science at Manila from 1919-1922, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of California, 1923-1929; director of the California Botanical Garden, 1927-1929, and professor of botany at Columbia from 1930. In the same year he succeeded Dr. N. L. Britton as director of the New York Botanical Garden. Under Dr. Merrill's régime, the herbarium at the Botanical Garden, the second largest in the United States, has been catalogued, a majority of the specimens being filed with copies of the original descriptions, references and other significant data, thus applying the methods of the library to the herbarium.

Dr. Merrill is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft, the Société Botanique de France and the Linnean Society of London. He is the author of numerous books and articles, particularly in systematic botany, and has been editor of various publications. During his active career he has described in excess of 3,000 new species of plants.

RECENT DEATHS

SERGIUS P. GRACE, assistant vice-president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories since 1928, died by suicide on June 23. Mr. Grace was fifty-nine years old.

DR. THOMAS McCRAE, since 1912 professor of medicine at Jefferson Medical College, died on July 1, at the age of sixty-four years.

O. B. MARTIN, director of the agricultural extension service of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, died on June 30. He was sixty-three years old. Mr. Martin went to Texas in 1927 from Washington, where he had been director of extension work of the Department of Agriculture for the southern region, comprising the cotton-growing states.

J. T. CUNNINGHAM, the marine zoologist and biologist, of the London Hospital Medical College, died on June 5 at the age of seventy-six years.

SIR JAMES WATT, Scottish forestry expert, died on July 1 at the age of ninety-three years. He had an international reputation as a seedsman and had engaged in farming in Canada on a large scale. In 1900 he became a member of the Departmental Board of Agriculture on Seeds for the British Empire. Earlier he had been employed by the government to reforest the mountains in the Isle of Man.

DANIEL NICOL DUNLOP, a director of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association and a founder of the World Power Conference, died on May 30, aged sixty-seven years.