

ing more than two hundred testimonial letters from Dr. Bessey's former students and friends scattered throughout the world was presented to him. Guests of honor at the banquet were three other members of the department of botany who have been retired from active service recently. They were Dr. R. P. Hibbard, Dr. H. T. Darlington and Dr. Richard de Zeeuw.

Since Dr. Bessey has been relieved of his administrative work he plans to continue his mycological research. A large collection of fungi made in the Hawaiian Islands a few years ago will be the subject of his immediate interest.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

A LETTER has been received by Dr. C. T. Brues, of Harvard University, from Leopoldo B. Uichanco, Agricultural College, Laguna, The Philippines. It reads:

July 7, 1945

Just a note to let you know that I am still alive. I had the good fortune to cheat death at least twice during Japanese occupation of the Philippines; first, in 1943, when I was under sentence of death, and on February 12, 1945, when I somehow managed to elude the Japanese bayonet during the general massacre in the town of Calamba (my home town). I did suffer from dislocated left shoulder because of torture administered by the Japanese in 1943, but I have since recovered almost completely through an operation.

Of the Bussey Institution graduates and former students, Felipe Salvoza is back at his post as assistant professor of dendrology and botany, and also secretary, School of Forestry, University of the Philippines; Vincente Aldaba is again working on textiles in the National Development Company; and Domingo Paguirigan is reorganizing the Bureau of Plant Industry, of which he will probably become the director. They are all well, except that Salvoza's hair has turned gray. I am again dean and professor of entomology in the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines.

My own college is in ruins, through the vandalism of the Japanese, who set fire one by one to the different buildings that contained our library, collections, records, laboratory equipment, etc. A few buildings are standing, but empty of their contents. What have not been eaten by fire have been taken away by looters. Now we will have to start over again from where we were about 1910.

The same sad fate befell all other scientific institutions in Manila and elsewhere in the Philippines. The entire Bureau of Science (including the botanical and other collections and the scientific library) was destroyed by Japanese incendiarism. Likewise, the National Library and Museum, the main University of the Philippines plant in Manila, and in fact nearly all the buildings south of the Pasig River, where the country's most valu-

able historical and scientific treasures were located. Of the Filipino scientists, the following were bayoneted to death by the Japanese while these savages were retreating from the American forces in January, 1945: Mr. Quirico Abadilla, director of mines; Dr. Candido Africa, professor of parasitology, Institute of Hygiene, University of the Philippines; Dr. Miguel Manresa, assistant professor of animal husbandry of my college; and Dr. José B. Julianio, botanist, Bureau of Science.

G. O. Ocfemia, chairman, Library Committee, Agricultural College of the University of the Philippines at Laguna, writes to SCIENCE:

After more than three years out of contact with the rest of the world, the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines reopened on July 26, 1945, without equipment and library facilities. The laboratories and the library of the college were reduced to ashes when the Japanese, in their retreat from Los Baños in February, 1945, burned down houses and public buildings and massacred men, women and children, including infants.

We wish to appeal to the generosity of book publishers in the United States for help. We will gratefully appreciate gifts of books to the Library of the College of Agriculture.

Thanking you in anticipation for whatever help you may wish to extend to our library.

Professor Dr. Chr. P. Raven, of the University of Utrecht, has written as follows to Dr. Viktor Hamburger, head of the department of zoology, of Washington University, St. Louis:

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Laboratory of General Zoology of the State University of Utrecht has come through the war quite undamaged.

Alas, the assistant-in-chief, Dr. J. W. de Marees van Swinderen, succumbed in a German concentration camp; one of our co-workers, J. Kloos, was shot by the Gestapo; the other members of the staff survived the terrors of five years of German occupation. Fortunately, we have been able to continue our scientific activity till the autumn of 1944. Then, the lack of fuel and the termination of the supply of gas and electric current made further work impossible; moreover, on account of the continual slave-raids most of us were enforced to remain at home.

After our liberation on the 7th of May we have resumed our work as soon as possible. We are, however, very much handicapped by the fact that we have been cut from our foreign communications and did not receive any scientific papers since 1940. Therefore, may I ask you to send me as soon as possible reprints of your papers of these years? When the dispatch of printed matter from our country is allowed, I will send you my papers and those of my co-workers in return.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Dr. Carl L. Hubbs, of the University of California, sends word to SCIENCE that Dr. L. F. de Beaufort reports that the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam was not damaged by the war. The collections are

intact. The entire staff, scientific as well as technical, survived the miseries of last winter. The preparation of "The Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago," of which Volume VIII appeared in 1940, is being continued.

The following letter has been addressed to Dr. R. A. Cooley, of the Public Health Service, by Dr. B. J. Krögsman, of Utrecht:

I am extremely sorry I can't supply you with specimens of ticks from the East-Indies. When I left Java in 1935 the material on which I based the publications about ticks stayed at the Veterinary Institute. I don't know how the conditions are there since the Japanese occupation. It might be possible that my colleagues are still able to help. You may try and write your wishes to The Director, Veterinary State Institute, Buitenzorg, Java.

If they are living and the building is not destroyed, I am sure they will give you some help.

Many thanks for the interest you took in the conditions in Holland. Last winter was terrible. No food (a ration of about 800 calories a week!), no light, no water, no coal, no gas, no wood. No man between 15 and 50 years could go outdoors, as the Huns deported every man they saw. Our wives went along the farms in the country in order to get some food, but the Huns tried to steal their bicycles and they had to walk. You can't imagine those medieval conditions we lived in. Thank Heavens, this nightmare is finished now.

The southern and eastern districts of Holland are badly damaged by air-raids and artillery-fire. The western parts, including Utrecht, suffered from inundations. But our most serious losses are caused by the systematic looting. The Huns stole our cars, trains, ships, barges, machinery, scientific equipment, etc. Holland is free but empty, we are put back to sixteenth century conditions.

In my laboratory we had hidden all valuable things, so our equipment is all right. But still it is difficult to get one's mind in order and to start again. It shall take some time before we can do decent work.

In future I hope to start investigations on the physiology of insects. I shall be pleased to send you our publications on that subject which may interest you and should be glad to receive in exchange all papers from your institute dealing with the physiology and ecology of Arthropods. I am anxious to read your paper on the ticks of tropical Asia.

With kind regards to Dr. Parker.

R. L. Starkey, associate microbiologist of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, sends a note consisting of some remarks included in a letter received from Holland from one of the students of Professor A. J. Kluyver, director of the laboratory of microbiology of the Technical University of Delft.

Professor Kluyver and his family and his laboratory came safely through this war. Professor Kluyver has been in rather bad health. Last winter we all feared that he would not stand the physical and mental strain

which was laid upon all the people in western Holland. . . . All members of the laboratory staff too managed to get through this war safely. From the Technical University of Delft two professors were killed by the Germans and ten per cent. of the students didn't return to Delft in consequence of the German occupation. Most of them have been killed or died in concentration camps. . . . Courses in the university have been started again after having been practically closed for more than two years. After a winter without gas and electricity work at the laboratory can start again, but the use of gas and electricity is strongly restricted. . . . Professor Kluyver recovered quickly after the liberation and has regained his interest in microbiology, which he seemed to have lost almost completely last winter.

Dr. H. T. U. Smith, of the U. S. Geological Survey, writes:

Letters recently received from Dr. Ph. H. Kuenen, of the Geologisch Instituut, and Dr. P. Terpstra, of the Kristallographisch Instituut, both of Groningen, Holland, indicate that they have passed through the war unscathed, but have been cut off from the outer world since 1939. Both would welcome copies of publications which have appeared during the past five years.

Dr. William Randolph Taylor, of the University of Michigan, has received word indirectly, through the kindness of the Smithsonian Institution, that

Dr. Erszébet Kol, of Szeged, Hungary, has been heard from. Dr. Kol is a noted student of the soda lakes of Europe, and of the algae of the snow and ice fields of Europe and America. Just before the war she studied for some months at Michigan, and completed a notable publication on the snow and ice algae of Alaska.

The following is quoted from a letter from Dr. Joseph Maisin, professor in the University of Louvain, addressed to Dr. Mildred W. S. Schram, secretary of the International Cancer Research Foundation. It is dated August 30, 1945:

My health is good, we continued our cancer work during the war but on a small scale on account of the food situation.

We investigated mainly on the relation between diet and cancer.

Personally I have had rather an unpleasant time during the war because I have been a hostage and during the last days I escaped being shot only just by chance.

Professor Dustin died during the war; he had been imprisoned as hostage. Professors Firket and Goormachtig are still in good health. Dr. Lerat is still living but very ill. Professor Deelman, of Amsterdam, is in good health. Professor Forsell, of Stockholm, also. Professor Roussy, Leroux, Madame Laborde and Dr. Lacassagne are all in good health. Professor Regaud is dead. . . .

Dr. Carl Skottsberg, director of the Botanical Garden, Gothenburg, Sweden, wrote to Dr. Frank E. Egler on September 26. Rumors of his death are false. He is enjoying very good health, and his botanical research is continuing as usual.