



## IN MEMORIAM

PROF. DR. A. A. PULLE

BY

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After a long and severe illness Prof. Dr. A. A. PULLE died on February 28th 1955. It was only early in December of last year that PULLE informed the board of our Society that he felt no longer able to continue his task as secretary of the editorial board of the "Acta Botanica Neerlandica" and asked to be replaced by a younger botanist. It was planned to give him in this number of our periodical some warm words of thanks for the very important services he had rendered for the sake of promoting botanical science in our country. Our hope that he would have had some more time to live has been in vain. We can now state only our thankfulness to his memory and give a retrospective view on the life of one of our best members.

AUGUST ADRIAAN PULLE was born on January 10th 1878 at Arnhem. A remarkable day for a plant taxonomist, it being exactly 100 years after the death of LINNAEUS. He passed his schoolyears in his native town and during those years he was active in botanising in the interesting surroundings of that city. His floristic knowledge of the Netherlands got a sound basis in those years. In later years, he occasionally used to refer to those happy moments when he discovered rare species on these private excursions.

As a student in pharmacy PULLE came to Utrecht university in 1897. As one of his teachers he found there the young Dr. F. A. F. C. WENT, who a year before had been appointed in the chair for General Botany. It was through WENT's lessons that PULLE's interest in botany awoke again and that he decided to take biology for his master's degree. WENT recognized PULLE's ability for taxonomy and through WENT's recommendation PULLE was chosen as a botanist to accompany the Saramacca R. expedition to Surinam in 1902. This first journey in the tropics was of immense value for PULLE's later work. Since that time he has been one of our

big promoters of botanical investigations in the tropics in general and in Surinam in particular. In 1906 he got his doctor degree first class honours on a thesis entitled "An Enumeration of the vascular Plants known from Surinam". This work has since been the basis for all those engaged with taxonomic studies of the Guianas.

In 1906 he made a trip to Java. In 1912/13 he accompanied as a botanist the third New Guinea Expedition and in 1920 he again made a collecting trip in various parts of Surinam. In 1938 he visited Brazil on the occasion of the first South American Botanical Congress. Finally he took part in the second South American Botanical Congress in the Argentine in 1948 and on his way back to Europe he paid a short visit to Surinam.

In 1906 he was appointed Lecturer and in 1914 Professor in Plant taxonomy and Plant geography at the Utrecht university, and Director of the Botanical Museum and Herbarium. Under his direction this rather small collection grew out to one of the best herbaria for the Northern South American region. In 1920 the formerly privately owned garden "Cantonspark" at Baarn (20 km NE of Utrecht) came as a botanical Garden of the university under his supervision and here too, PULLE made every effort to enrich the collections.

About his scientific work and especially about all he did for the botanical investigation of Surinam we will report elsewhere. Also we will be short about his work as a university professor. But it may be stated that the number of plant taxonomists in the Netherlands early in this century was very small and that if we can say now with some pride that our country is well represented in the world family of plant taxonomists, we will have to acknowledge that this is mainly due to PULLE.

In this place, however, we must pay tribute to his activities for the Royal Dutch Botanical Society. On February the 7th, 1904, PULLE became a member and he served the Society in many functions. From 1909–1916 he was secretary of the commission for the floristic investigation of the Netherlands. From 1914–1916 he was secretary of the board of the Society. From 1934–1936 and from 1942–1945 he was president of the commission for biosociology. From 1947–1948 he was president of the commission for plant taxonomy and plant geography. Apart from his activities as an ordinary member these services together rendered to the society by one person, are already something for which we have to be grateful, but far above that goes the work he did for the publications of our society. From 1923–1952 he was secretary of the editorial commission for the "Recueil des travaux botaniques néerlandais" and from 1952–Jan. 1955 of the same commission for the "Acta

Botanica Neerlandica". For thirty two years the editing of the Society's periodical depended on PULLE. He perused the manuscripts and he reported on them to the commission, he talked and corresponded with the publishers and printers, he read the proofs, he had to please the authors, the printers and the society, and he did the work carefully and usually without losing his sense of humour. The society expressed its greatest appreciation for this outstanding work by appointing PULLE honorary member on the occasion of the celebration of the society's centenary in 1945. I know that PULLE highly appreciated this recognition for his work. In the last year of his life his illness made it impossible for him to continue his work in the way he would have liked but he still devoted what was left him in activity to this editorial work. It was only at the very end that he decided to ask the society's board to accept his resignation. He felt that his time had come and he liked to hand over his function at a moment that he was still able to do so. He was very glad that his pupil Dr. F. P. JONKER was appointed his successor.

For more than 50 years PULLE was an active botanist and during these years he was promoting botanical science in general but especially in his own country, for his Dutch Society, his University and his Institute. We gratefully pay a tribute to his memory for what he did and for the friendship he gave so many of us.