

matter of grace" as Dr. Chaudhuri states. It is a service paid for in hard cash and at a far cheaper rate than could be obtained at any institution carrying on similar work in India, as it is subsidized by all parts of the Empire and each contributing country has only to pay a fraction of the total cost.

Dr. Chaudhuri's light-hearted remark that it takes months or even years to obtain a report on any material sent to the central organizations is sufficiently met by the following figures. In the two years 1930 and 1931 the average time that elapsed between the date on the forwarding letter from India and the date of the report from the Imperial Mycological Institute was 37.45 days, a period that includes the time taken in transit from India, probably for parcels about three weeks. In 1932 the average time was 47.72 days, but this difference is almost wholly accounted for by a single enquiry which took 132 days and involved a great deal of critical work.

E. G. BUTLER,
Director.

Imperial Mycological Institute,
Ferry Lane,
Kew, Surrey, England.
January 16, 1933.

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THE many mycological workers in India will feel heartened by Dr. Butler's declaration that they can expect the service of his organization as a matter of right since "it is a service paid for in hard cash" and not given "as a matter of grace" as put by me through ignorance. We may perhaps now look forward to Indian mycologists being employed in Dr. Butler's Bureau, since India is paying part of the expenses.

I am very pleased to know of the prompt way in which enquiries from India are dealt with. If I complained about the delay in getting reports, it was due to my experience of the Bureau in its early days. The data now supplied by Dr. Butler, leave no doubt about the promptness with which enquiries are now attended to, and I feel certain that the Imperial Mycological Institute will now receive many more enquiries from India than before. Mycologists in India will feel indebted to Dr. Butler for this statement.

Now as regards my plea for the establishment of an Indian Bureau of Mycology, I fully agree with what Dr. Butler has said

regarding the functions of a mycological bureau. Dr. Butler will no doubt grant that the Mycological Section at Pusa has been doing much of the work which he ascribes to such a bureau. If there is any duplication of the work that is being done in London, I maintain it is a necessary duplication, and every country has got to do that kind of work independently. But I would not suggest that the Indian Bureau should start publishing abstracts of mycological literature; that work is very efficiently done by the London Bureau. If, however, I am permitted I may suggest that along with the abstracts, the addresses of the authors may as well be printed. That will facilitate exchange of material direct.

My whole endeavour has been to press for the establishment of a culture bureau in India, similar to that of Baarn, where the cultures of fungi isolated here may be maintained and made available to the workers in India. The situation and climate of Pusa being unsuitable for the purpose, I suggested the establishment of a separate mycological bureau. Since the publication of my last letter, this matter has been discussed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, India, and the idea accepted, and I am glad to state that efforts are now being made to find out the best way to give effect to it. Under the present financial condition the establishment of a separate bureau not being a feasible proposition, the best thing would be to develop the Mycological Section at Pusa into a proper mycological bureau. This involves refrigerating arrangements for maintaining cultures, which however need not prove an insurmountable obstruction as there is an ice-plant there which has got an output sufficient to meet the demand.

Mycological workers in India are indebted to the Mycological Section at Pusa for the help and facilities given there. If it now develops into a proper mycological bureau, and I have no doubt it shall do so soon, nobody will feel more happy, I am sure, than Dr. Butler who has been associated with it from the very beginning. There is need and scope for its development, and certainly money spent there will not be money wasted.

H. CHAUDHURI.

Punjab University,
Lahore,
February 14, 1933.