

from the top from time to time. The daily loss of water by evapo-transpiration obtained by the electronic equipment agreed fairly well with that obtained with weighing machine. The daily loss of water by evapo-transpiration only is shown in Fig. 1 from 10th July to 15th September 1955, after which the crop experienced frequent heavy rains and the crop got lodged.

The total loss of water by evapo-transpiration from the date of sowing to 15th September 1955, was 18.38". The approximate height of the crop on the given dates are given below :

Date	Approximate height of the crop
13-7-1955	½"
30-7-1955	6"
15-8-1955	11"
31-8-1955	2' 7"
15-9-1955	3' 4"

Investigations are still in progress and fuller details will be published elsewhere. Thanks are due to Dr. L. A. Ramdas and Shri S. P. Venkiteshwaran for their valuable guidance in this work.

OBITUARY

DR. E. D. MERRILL

DR. ELMER DREW MERRILL, Sc.D., LL.D., Arnold Professor of Botany, Harvard University, and Retired Director of the Arnold Arboretum, Mass., U.S.A., passed away at Jamaica Plain, Mass., U.S.A., on the 25th February 1956. He was 79.

Dr. Merrill was among the foremost of American botanists and held a position in the international field unrivalled till his death. From a modest beginning as an Assistant in the Department of Natural Science, University of Maine and later as Botanist in the Bureau of Agriculture and Forestry, Manila, Merrill rose to the post of Director, New York Botanical Garden (1930-35) and later as Director, Arnold Arboretum and Arnold Professor of Harvard University. For more than fifty years (1904-55) Merrill's numerous publications covered a large number of subjects and he described plants from many lands. Most noteworthy among these are his authoritative work on the Philippines Plants, Guam Plants, Bornean Plants, Chinese Plants, other Pacific Island Plants and Botanical nomenclature. He was an acknowledged authority in all these subjects, especially in botanical nomenclature. His contributions to this subject can also be compared favourably with Linnaeus, whose work of codification of plant names current in his time was a landmark in botanical science.

Merrill has published nearly three hundred

scientific papers, several scores of new genera and some three thousand new species and new combinations. Some of Merrill's important works are: *Flora of Manila* (1911), *An Interpretation of Rumphias' Herbarium Amboinense* (1917), *Species Blancoanæ* (1918), *Enumeration of Philippine Flowering Plants* (1926), *Commentary on Loureiro's Flora Cochinchinensis* (1935), *A Bibliography of Eastern Asiatic Botany* (with Dr. E. H. Walker) (1938), *Plant Life of the Pacific World* (1945) and *Botany of Cook's Voyages* (1954).

Many species and genera have been named after him, among which may be mentioned *Merrillhopanax* Li, *Merrillia* Swingle, *Merrillanthus* Chung et Tsiang, and *Merrillhyobryum* Broth. He was a recipient of many honours, and a corresponding member of many foreign societies.

Dr. Merrill was a great believer in international co-operation amongst scientists and the present author had the good fortune of meeting him on a few occasions both in England and Holland.

On the occasion of his seventieth birthday the *Chronica Botanica* published a special volume entitled *Merrilleana* containing reprints of his selected writings, which is perhaps the finest tribute that could be paid to one whose life and work has left a veritable landmark in the field of botany.

D. CHATTERJEE.