

were in charge of the operation of the source and carried out a highly commendable volume of work, for which our sincere thanks are due. We are grateful to Dr. S. Bhaskaran, who was the Principal Technical Information Officer at the U.S. Atomic Energy Pavilion, for his advice and assistance.

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## SUMMER SCHOOL IN BOTANY

UNDER the auspices of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Government of India, a Summer School in Botany, the first of its kind in India, was held at Darjeeling (Eastern Himalayas, altitude 7,000 ft.) from June 2-15, 1960. Professor P. Maheshwari, Head of the Department of Botany at the University of Delhi, was Director of the Summer School. 35 representatives from the various Indian universities and scientific institutions participated in the proceedings of the School. The programme included lectures followed by presentation of papers and discussions. Fifty-four papers were presented and their scope was wide and varied. Some excursions were also arranged.

Among the topics for lectures were: Contacts between embryology, physiology and genetics (P. Maheshwari, Delhi); Rhizosphere microfloras, and Bioassay problems (T. S. Sadasivan, Madras); Botanical nomenclature (H. Santapau, Bombay); Genetics of *Coleus* (D. C. Rife, New Delhi); Origin of maize (J. Venkateswarlu, Waltair). Endemic flora of India (D. Chatterji, Calcutta); Hydroponics (J. C. Sen Gupta, Calcutta); and Buds in some Indian ferns (T. S. Mahabale, Poona).

A full afternoon was devoted to group discussions on the "Promotion of botanical teaching and research in India". The problems discussed included: Future of Plant Morphology, Plant exploration in India, New lines of work on cryptogams, Problems in genetics, Teaching of Plant physiology and ecology, and General teaching of botany. This discussion was continued on the 14th afternoon and 15th morning under the chairmanship of Professor

P. Maheshwari and the recommendations made have been forwarded to the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, and the University Grants Commission.

The after-dinner talks included: Flora of Mahabaleshwar (H. Santapau), Botanical gardens in the U.K. and Europe (B. M. Johri), Spring flora of Chicago (M. Nagaraj), Flora of Eastern India (G. Panigrahi), and Phytogeography of Palms (T. S. Mahabale). All of these were illustrated with kodachromes. Professor V. Puri also showed several interesting coloured transparencies taken during his visits to Stockholm and Montreal on the occasion of the International Botanical Congresses. Professor T. S. Mahabale gave a running commentary on a technicolor film entitled the "Flora of Andamans", taken by the students of his department. Some of the shots, particularly of the gills of *Agaricus*, their opening, discharge of spores and final collapse were very fascinating. Mr. A. C. Gupta (Retired Conservator of Forests now residing at Darjeeling) showed several coloured films on the "Flora and fauna of Darjeeling and Sikkim". Through the courtesy of the Director of Publicity, West Bengal, two films on *Cinchona* and Tea plantation were also screened.

The excursions included visits to the Happy Valley Tea Estate and the Lloyd Botanic Garden which was established in 1878 and has, besides other Himalayan plants, an excellent collection of gymnosperms.

Dr. B. M. Johri, Department of Botany, University of Delhi, was the Organizer of the Summer School.