

plant-diseases of the "virus" type, and (2) the efficiency or otherwise, of controlling the spread of insect and fungus pests from one country to another by means of a phytopathological service.

Discussions on the latter concerned chiefly plant import regulations and quarantines, the point of view of the exporting country being ably expounded by Mr. van Poeteren, who is director of the Netherlands Phytopathological Service. The controversial and difficult nature of this subject is well known, and it is satisfactory to record that the following resolution was approved:

"The representatives of all nations assembled at the International Phytopathological Conference at Wageningen, June 25-30, 1923, desire to place themselves on record as in full agreement with the essentials of international trade and commerce in living plants and plant-products, namely, reasonable freedom from all insect-pests and plant-diseases of all kind of materials imported into or exported from any country."

It should also be mentioned that so greatly impressed were members with the results of the Conference in bringing about international sympathy and co-operation as to the control of diseases and pests, that it was considered imperative that similar conferences under the same title should be held in future, and a small committee, under the chairmanship of Prof. Quanjer, with Mr. Schoevers as secretary, was appointed to undertake provisionally the duties of arranging for the next conference and of dealing with the various resolutions which had been passed.

This brief summary would be incomplete if some reference were not made to the hospitality and kindness experienced. Special mention must also be made of the admirable manner in which Prof. Quanjer carried out his duties as president, and the debt members owe him for rendering the discussions clear to all by rapid translation. As secretary, Mr. Schoevers was untiring, working literally night and day for the good of the Conference.

Sir William Thiselton-Dyer.

TRIBUTE FROM BRITISH BOTANISTS.

ON July 28 Sir William Thiselton-Dyer attained his eightieth birthday and was the recipient of the subjoined letter from botanists throughout the country. Sir William's work as assistant director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, under Sir Joseph Hooker, and then as director for a memorable period of twenty years, is so well known that it is not necessary to refer to the many important things he did during his term of office. The present condition of the Gardens, and the prestige of Kew all over the world, are sufficient testimony to his ability and prescience. We beg to extend to Sir William in his retirement our congratulations and best wishes that he may long continue to enjoy his health and carry on his botanical activities.

DEAR SIR WILLIAM,

The occasion of your eightieth birthday affords us the opportunity of which we gladly avail ourselves, not only of offering you our congratulations upon having attained so venerable an age, but also of assuring you of our continued regard and esteem. In doing so we who sign this letter do but acknowledge our indebtedness to you for the inspiration and guidance which we, both as teachers and researchers, have derived directly or indirectly from your own early work as a professor of botany. We regard that work, and more especially the courses of practical instruction conducted by you at South Kensington in the years 1875 and 1876, as having inaugurated the renaissance of the study of the structure and functions of plants which had been so brilliantly carried on by British botanists in earlier times. It must, we feel sure, afford you great and justifiable satisfaction to contemplate the marvellous development of such studies in this country during the years that have passed since you quickened them into new life.

The professorial career on which you had embarked so brilliantly was unfortunately, as it may have seemed at the time, brought to a close by your appointment to the assistant directorship of Kew in 1875 and your subsequent appointment as director

ten years later. The work that you were enabled to carry out at Kew has been of such national importance, that, however much we may regret the loss of the stimulating influence you would undoubtedly have exerted as a professor, we all realise the great and lasting services you have rendered to botany, not only from the purely scientific point of view, but also in relation to the development and encouragement of botanical enterprise throughout the British Empire.

Another notable result of the interest you inspired was the successful launching of the *Annals of Botany*, which has come to be one of the leading botanical periodicals of the world. We do not forget that it was your enthusiasm that turned the scale when the question of "to be or not to be" hung in the balance. The *Annals* is a lasting monument to your courage and prescience.

It would need a lengthy document were we to attempt to set out in detail the value of your many efforts for the promotion of our science, but in conclusion we feel we must refer to the noble work you did in saving the old Chelsea Physic Garden from destruction. Thanks to you, London has now a botanic garden where students and teachers can study the structure and functions of plants and pursue those studies which you did so much to promote.

With our very kind regards and good wishes,

Believe us to be, dear Sir William,

Yours very truly,

D. H. SCOTT	F. KEEBLE
S. H. VINES	A. B. RENDLE
F. O. BOWER	A. SHIPLEY
BALFOUR	H. WAGER
H. T. BROWN	F. F. BLACKMAN
D. PRAIN	V. H. BLACKMAN
F. DARWIN	F. W. OLIVER
H. H. DIXON	A. G. TANSLEY
A. C. SEWARD	F. E. WEISS
J. B. FARMER	A. W. HILL

and all the leading botanists in Great Britain and Ireland.