



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MAY 1957. We take satisfaction in having developed, here at EAP, an excellent reference library and a good herbarium. These have been used, and will continue to be used, by workers who come here from many regions, as well as by our own staff, students, and graduates.

During ten years Louis O. Williams built up the herbarium and increased the number of reference works in the library. For seven years, Paul C. Standley, outstanding authority on the flora of Central America, made his home here and did invaluable work in the collection and naming of plants. Paul H. Allen, a well-known botanist with long experience in tropical America, joined us about three years ago and has provided much assistance in connection with the herbarium as well as in our teaching and horticultural work; while Antonio Molina, a young Honduran who was trained by Dr. Williams (after graduating from our school) and who later spent a year at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri, on a Guggenherim Fellowship, has been of great assistance in collecting plants in various countries and in caring for the herbarium. From time to time we have been stimulated and helped by such notable botanists as the late Dr. E. D. Merrill, who spent three winters with us.

The herbarium now contains some 80,000 specimens, the great majority of which represent Central American plants. We have a few hundred specimens from Mexico, Cuba, and elsewhere. Our collections will continue to grow (though not so rapidly as in past years) through the work of Antonio Molina and material sent by botanists for identification. The latter point is important; if you are interested in a rare plant, for economic or other reasons, how are you going to get very far if you do not know its botanical name? With this, you can usually learn a good deal - if you have a good reference library.

So we come to the matter of libraries. Ours now contains some 5500 volumes, many of which have been difficult to obtain. Naturally, we have devoted major attention to works on tropical agriculture, animal husbandry, and horticulture. Most of them are in English, as many as possible in Spanish, and a few in French, German, and Portuguese. In taxonomic botany we are strong, as is necessary in connection with our herbarium and the work which has been done here. We are well supplied with books on chemistry, soils, and fertilizers, as well as on veterinary science - all of these subjects are important for our teaching staff.

We have many good books on the archeology of Central America - especially the publications of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. We have a selection of books on the history of Central America, and a creditable representation of travel books, mainly ones which contain information of value. We have most of the Biologia Centrali-Americana (very difficult to obtain) and we have a complete set of the Experiment Station Record, presented by Professor John H. MacGillivray of the University of California. We have many volumes of scientific journals.

All of the above-mentioned facilities, while primarily for the purpose of providing tools with which our own group can work, are at the disposal of visitors who wish to use them.