

An outline program for the Ninth Pacific Congress, to be held November 18 to December 9, 1957, in Bangkok, Thailand, has been presented in Vol. 8, No. 5, of the Pacific Science Association's Information Bulletin. Among the topics to be covered at the Congress are several which may be of interest to ISTF members: Forest botany in the Pacific Basin; plant ecology in the Pacific; effects of shifting cultivation on natural resources with special reference to problems in southeast Asia; methods of land classification as employed in countries around the Pacific; reforestation of Imperata waste lands; natural regeneration of tropical monsoon forest; natural rubber and natural gums and resins. In addition, a special symposium on humid tropics research will be held with the assistance of UNESCO, dealing with climate, vegetation, and land utilization in the humid tropics. President of the Congress is Air Marshall M.M. Vejjant Rangsrishit, and the Secretariat office is Dept. of Science, Ministry of Industry, Rama VI Road, Bangkok, Thailand.

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Members of the ISTF who are interested in tropical ecology may wish to know of the formation of a new Society of Tropical Ecologists, in India. The concern of the new society will not be plant ecology solely, but bioecology, including animal and human elements. The plan is to arrange meetings, discussions, seminars, etc., and to publish a Journal of Tropical Ecology, which will carry articles on fundamental and applied research. Ordinary membership fees will be Rs. 10 annually, and associate membership, Rs. 5 (plus an admission fee in each case of Rs. 5). Those wishing to learn more about the Society may write Professor R. Misra, Hon. Treasurer, Society of Tropical Ecologists, Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi 5, Banares, India. Those wishing to join should submit the following information: Name, present designation and address, type of membership desired, and phases of ecology in which the inquirer is interested.

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Another society launched within the past few months is the International Society of Bioclimatology and Biometeorology, which held its first meeting in Paris in August 1956 and defined bioclimatology and biometeorology as comprising the study of the direct and indirect interrelations between the geophysical and geochemical environment and living organisms, plant, animal, and man. The purpose of the society is to unite in one international group all bioclimatologists in the fields of medical, general botanical, agricultural, forest, zoological, entomological, and cosmic bioclimatology. A first congress of the society is provisionally scheduled for Vienna, Austria, September 23-27, 1957. Further information may be had from the Secretary, Dr. S.W. Tromp, 54 Hofbrouckerlaan, Oegstgeest, Leyden, Netherlands.

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ISTF member Eng. Laercio Osse, chief of forestry for the Belgo Mineira (said to be one of the world's major planters of eucalyptus) in Brazil, was among those who participated in the World Eucalyptus Conference held in Rome last October 17-30 under the auspices of FAO. Vicente Diaz Serrano also took part in the conference as part of the Cuban delegation. Topics discussed included: The value of eucalypts; problems basic to planting; establishment, management, and protection of eucalyptus; protection of farming and soil stabilization; and utilization. Among the recommendations was one that FAO eventually organize another such conference. Both Spain and Brazil expressed interest in being host at such a future conference.

Congratulations to H.H. Chapman for having received the American Forestry Association's Conservation Award for 1956, bestowed upon him for exemplifying the highest type of professional ethics and for his record of service in the public interest, as well as for his researches on the management of southern pines, particularly longleaf pine. Congratulations too to Paul W. Bedard for having been chosen "the man on the cover" of the July 1956 issue of the Philippine magazine, The Lumberman. Besides the cover photograph, the magazine also carried a biography outlining the high points of Paul's career.

Congratulations also to Janis Petriceks for having completed course work and thesis for the degree of Magistri Agriculturae from the Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agricolas, in Turrialba, Costa Rica. The thesis, "Plan de Ordenacion del Bosque de la Finca 'La Selva,'" contains, besides a brief general description of the area (it is a "forest farm" of some 1500 acres located in northeastern Costa Rica), details of inventories, soil surveys, economic aspects, silvicultural treatments proposed, and objectives of management. It also includes quite a full review of existing literature concerned with factors which must be taken into account in forest management, especially tropical forest management. (A copy of the thesis, mimeographed, 113 pp., plus bibliography and appendix, is undoubtedly on file at the Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agricolas.)

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A recent communication from Nelson Fritz enclosed a plan for establishing eucalyptus plantations near Huanuco, Peru, to supply mine props and timbers for the mines of the Cerro de Pasco Corporation. Preliminary road-building, site clearance, and nursery construction have been completed, and seed sown in the nursery. Because E. Globulus is the predominating eucalyptus species in the several Andes valleys in Peru, it has been accepted as the tree to grow for mine timbers. However, since there is space in the Huachog nursery, the plan is to experiment with E. Robusta and possibly other eucalypts.

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Another ISTF member who is busy on a planting program is Joseph P. Dearborn, who arrived recently in Colombia to start planting teak in the Magdalena River Valley.

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On March 13, 1957, an 11-week tropical forestry training course was started in Puerto Rico. This is the third annual program of its kind. It is being administered by the Tropical Research Center under the auspices of the International Cooperation Administration and with the cooperation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Three participants are from Colombia, and one each from Bolivia, British Guiana, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Liberia, Panama, St. Lucia, Thailand, and Trinidad. Floyd Cossett and ISTF member Earl Rogers, of the U.S. Forest Service, will provide specialized instruction during part of the course, and Hyndman Stein has been made similarly available by FAO. The course probably will be given again in 1958.

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The Latin American Forestry Office of FAO has been moved to Chile, where its mailing address is Casilla 10095, Santiago.

ISTF members E.L. Demmon and Tom Gill spent the last part of 1956 in Taiwan, working with Paul Zehngraft on a revised forest policy and plan of management for the island. On his way back to the States, Demmie stopped off in the Philippines, where Paul Bedard was able to introduce him to other ISTF members and to show him recent developments in forests and forestry in that Republic.

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The February 1957 issue of *La Hacienda* (published at Lockport, N.Y.) carries an article by Bruce Lamb, "El despertar de los bosques," which gives the recent status of the timber industry in Latin America. Woods which were formerly considered of little value are taking over leadership from mahogany. Typical of these woods are cuangare (*Iryanthera juruensis*) and cativo (*Prioria copaifera*). Thanks to the rapid industrial development of the Latin American Republics, these woods are being processed locally in factories turning out paper boards, veneers, and laminated woods. The article also describes several sawmilling and other forest products manufacturing plants located in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, and Surinam.

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ISTF member J. Guillard has provided evidence, in Vol. 11, No. 1 (1957) of *Unasylva*, that "one picture is worth a thousand words." In a series of three photographs he has illustrated a simple method for making containers for transplanting tree seedlings. Photo No. 1 shows two small bundles of thatch (about the thickness of a wrist, and they could be palm fronds, pliable reeds, long grasses, or similar dried material) placed on the ground at right angles to each other, with a bottle (about the size of a whisky quart or fifth) placed at the intersection. Photo No. 2 shows the bundles folded up around the sides of the bottle, with a single sheath tied around, about 4 inches above the bottom of the bottle, to hold the thatch in place. Photo No. 3 shows the finished container, with a second sheath tied around a few inches above the first, and with excess material neatly trimmed off about 8 inches above the bottom.

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Mr. D.R. Gifford, Lecturer, Department of Forestry, Edinburgh, may not be known personally to many members of the ISTF, but most of them will grant him a smile of tribute for his definition of the forester's character implied in the following passage: ". . . in Nyasaland as elsewhere, the forester can only be truly happy once he has a proper title to the land with which he is dealing, as it is only on such land that he can hope to make an uninterrupted success of his anti-social calling." (From "Paradise Lost: An Impression of Nyasaland Forestry," appearing in *Sylva*, the annual publication of the Edinburgh University Forestry Society, 1956-57.)

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With this issue of news notes is enclosed a list of members as of April 30. A reading of the list will reveal the names of several new members, all of them most welcome. It will also disclose a tendency of tropical foresters not to stay fixed. Appended to the list are several names which have been dropped from the main body, owing to return of mail from the addresses listed. The Society office will be glad to reinstate these names upon receipt of correct addresses.

THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE DESERT AND THE SOWN, by A. Reifenberg. Publishing Department of the Jewish Agency, P.O. Box 7044, Jerusalem, Israel. 1955. 109 pp., 72 photos. \$4.50. This book, published posthumously, was written by the late Professor of Soil Chemistry at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and bears the subtitle, "Rise and Fall of Agriculture in the Levant." It traces the history of agriculture in the eastern Mediterranean (Palestine, Transjordan, Lebanon, and Syria) from prehistoric times up until the end of Turkish rule, around the time of World War I. The work is so full of citations from ancient sources -- the Bible, the Talmud, Theophrastus, Pliny, the crusaders, the caliphs -- that it seems at times almost a catalogue of local descriptions. And these descriptions are frequently matched with another catalogue, this one of photographs showing the present status of areas described. Catalogues can be dull for the general reader, even though of utmost fascination for the specialist. Professor Reifenberg considers as important factors in Levant agriculture the following: Climate (rainfall patterns, with the resulting need for reservoirs and irrigation), destruction of vegetation, including trees (for wars, extension of cultivated areas, extension of grazing areas, and for charcoal and lime-burning), invasion of nomads, and political changes (since agriculture was most secure under strong and efficient administrations). A foreword by Walter C. Lowdermilk emphasizes the importance of harmonizing grazing and agricultural economies, and the need for support of the whole population in the farmers' race against famine.

A WORLD GEOGRAPHY OF FOREST RESOURCES, edited by Stephen Haden-Guest, John K. Wright, and Eileen M. Teclaff. Ronald Press Company, New York, N.Y. 1956. 736 pp. \$12.50. Several ISTF members were contributors to this unequal but unique book, among them L.J. Cummings, L.R. Holdridge, Roman W. Szechowycz, and Florencio Tamesis. The aim of the book is to attempt a worldwide appraisal of forest resources, and the approach is essentially regional. Our ISTF members contributed to this section, as did several other authorities of worldwide repute. But there were other contributors less well endowed, and this wide range of competence, and perhaps a lack of close supervision or organization on the part of the editors have made it impossible to compare similar phases of forestry in different regions.

APROVECHAMIENTO DE LOS RECURSOS FORESTALES. Banco de Mexico, S.A., Mexico, D.F., Mexico. 310 pp. 1956. (No price noted.) In Spanish. This publication is Tomo I, issued by the Bank of Mexico's Department of Industrial Relations. It consists of five reports presented by FAO's Forestry Mission to Mexico, as follows: Report on Silviculture, by D.T. Griffiths; Some Suggestions Concerning the Forestry Problem in Mexico, by Louis Huguet; Reforestation in Mexico, by Louis Huguet; Report on Forest Entomology, by Fred Hartig; and Forest Economy of Yucatan, by Louis Huguet. Each of these reports contains a section of recommendations. It is expected that later volumes will cover such subjects as possibilities for pulp and paper and other forest products (ties, tanning materials, naval stores), as well as forest inventory, and a report covering the creation of a forestry research center.

The July 1956 issue of The Philippine Forest Service (Paco, Manila, Philippines), was a Special Arbor Week Issue, and besides articles on tree festivals and an outline program for Arbor Week celebrations, carried, with photographs of all Directors, an article, "Brief History of the Bureau of Forestry."