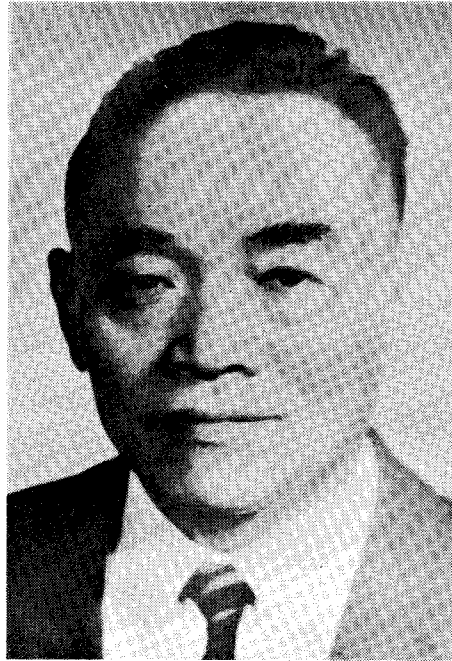


LATE DR. HSIEN-WEN LI, 1902-1976



TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE DR. HSIEN-WEN LI

Dr. Hsien-Wen Li, former Director of the Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, died at the Veterans Hospital in Taipei, Taiwan, on July 4, 1976. He was an eminent geneticist and great leader in development of biological sciences in Taiwan.

Dr. Li was born on October 10, 1902 at Chiang-Chin, Szechuan, China. After graduation from the Tsing Hua Preparatory School he was sent to Purdue University for advanced studies. He obtained his bachelor's degree in horticulture from Purdue University in 1926. He then enrolled at Cornell University and received his Ph.D. in plant breeding in 1930. After returning to China, he became a Professor at the National Central University in Nanking in 1930; National Northeastern University in Mukden in 1931; National Honan University in Kaifeng and National Wuhan University in Hupei, in 1935; and was appointed as the Director of Rice and Wheat Improvement Station, Provincial Szechuan Agricultural Experiment Station in Chengtu, China.

In view of his great successful research work in breeding of wheat and Italian millet, he was elected as a member of the Academia Sinica in 1948. He and his colleagues have published more than one hundred scientific papers in domestic and international journals since 1930. After the central government of Republic of China moved to Taiwan in 1949, he devoted himself to reorganizing the Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, and conducted researches in breeding and cytogenetics of rice and sugarcane. In 1950, the sugarcane was seriously attacked by downy mildew and leaf scorch. Destruction by the diseases was so severe that the sugar industry was in jeopardy. He was instrumental in extending the use of a resistant variety, NCO 310, to replace the susceptible ones which were being widely cultivated at that time. Taiwan's sugar industry was thus back to its bright prospect. In 1962, the Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica was formally reestablished, and he was appointed as director of the Institute. In 1964, when the Biology Research Center was founded, he was also appointed as director of the Center. Due to declining health, he retired from the Institute on November 1, 1971. During his tenure he established excellent facilities of biological laboratories in Academia Sinica and trained many young scientists who are now the most active research workers in this country.

Although Dr. Li has passed from the Institute, he remains in our hearts as an outstanding scientist and is regarded as a great leader in the field of biological sciences here and abroad. This issue of the Bulletin is therefore dedicated to the memory of Prof. Dr. H. W. Li and his great academic performance.

Tsong-Teh Kuo
Director
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