

OBITUARY

AGATHE L. VAN BEVERWIJK

(1907-1963)

With the passing away of AGATHE L. VAN BEVERWIJK on 10 July 1963 the scientific world has lost a well-known mycologist, the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures an active and most devoted director. AGATHE VAN BEVERWIJK was born in Amsterdam 18 September 1907, where she spent her youth. In 1925 she entered the University of Amsterdam where she took courses in botany, zoology and geology. After having received her diploma in 1930, she started her career as a teacher, giving biology lessons at a secondary school. Actually she was more interested in doing research work and after a few years of teaching she took a job as a research worker at the Cancer Institute, Amsterdam. Though she was very interested in the work done in this institute, she hated the required experimenting on animals. For this reason she left the Cancer Institute and for one year she took courses in English, resulting in the teacher's diploma (English). After this achievement she got back to teaching again, now at the international Quaker's school, at Ommen, where she had to give biology lessons in English. In these international surroundings she made many friends. From this time dated her profound knowledge of foreign languages. During the war, in 1944, the school was closed and Miss VAN BEVERWIJK became a cooperator of Professor WESTERDIJK at the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn. In this institute, besides the work in the culture collection, she carried out identifications, especially of fungi belonging in the genera *Fusarium*, *Pythium* and *Phytophthora*. In course of time she became one of the outstanding specialists of these groups of fungi. She chose the interesting and beautifully-shaped watermoulds as her special study object. Her papers dealing with this group of fungi continue to attract attention because of their clear and accurate descriptions. The study of mycology seemed to satisfy both her scientific interest and her sense of beauty.

At the C.B.S. with its many international relationships, her knowledge of languages was very useful. She assisted many guest workers in their study of mycology during their stay at the C.B.S. They will not only remember her for her readiness to help but also for kindness and hospitality.

Editors's note — The likeness of the late Miss VAN BEVERWIJK was already published in the Gallery as no. 101, vol. 14 (3), 1961.

She made many study tours. In 1946 she spent 2 months at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, in 1948 she went to Paris to study medical mycology under LANGERON and RIVALIER. In 1957 she spent a few months in the U.S.A. where she visited mycological institutes. Moreover she attended the most important international congresses dealing with mycology: 1947 Copenhagen, 1950 Stockholm, 1954 Paris, 1959 and 1962 Montreal.

After Professor WESTERDIJK's retirement in 1958 Miss VAN BEVERWIJK was appointed as director of the C.B.S. Her main interests during the 5 years of her directorship were the general problems dealing with the management of the collection and the composition of the catalogue. In this connection she introduced a numbering system for the cultures of the C.B.S. collection. The taxonomic significance of type cultures was another topic in which she was deeply interested. She stimulated the international cooperation between the various culture collections, carrying on an extensive correspondence with mycologists all over the world.

At the Commonwealth Mycological Conference in London, 1960, she read a paper "Are type cultures type material?". In 1962 at the Réunion des Directeurs de Collections de Micro-organismes in Lyon she addressed her audience on "Catalogues of culture collections". At the Specialists' Conference on Culture Collections in Ottawa, 1962, she read a paper about "Culture Collections, why and wherefore". At this latter conference she was appointed a member of the international committee responsible for the organization of meetings of culture collection specialists.

The development of the C.B.S., initiated under Professor WESTERDIJK, continued under Miss VAN BEVERWIJK. Consequently the housing of this bureau became a problem. It was at Miss VAN BEVERWIJK's initiative that a new, modern and efficient laboratory building was erected for the C.B.S. For years she continued planning and re-planning, looking for ways to overcome the numerous difficulties. How happy she was when in the spring of 1963 a start was made with the building of the new institute. Unfortunately she did not have a strong constitution and the preparations for the new building seem to have demanded too much of her strength. She felt very tired when she left in June for a short vacation in the Austrian mountains. There, after a brief illness, she passed away. It is felt as a great grief to her fellowworkers at the C.B.S. that she did not live to see the new institute which she planned so carefully. Her death means a great loss to the Centraalbureau and her many friends.

A. C. STOLK

List of publications

- Invloed der kweekmethode in vitro op den membraangroei van kanker; Ned. T. Geneesk. **78**: 608—609, 1934.
Züchtung von Walker-Rattenkarzinom no. 256 in vitro; Arch. exp. Zellforsch. **16**: 151—158, 1934.

- Vertikale Schnittserien von Gewebekulturen;
Arch. exp. Zellforsch. **16**: 365—372, 1934. (with L. BÜLBRING).
- Uitkomsten by kweek in vitro van gezwollen in den dilute-brown muizenstam van Little;
Ned. T. Geneesk. **79**: 1491—1492, 1934.
- Observations on submerged watermoulds in the Netherlands;
Antonie van Leeuwenhoek **14**: 223—250, 1948.
- Candelabrum spinulosum a new fungus species;
Antonie van Leeuwenhoek **17**: 6—12, 1951.
- Zalewski's "*Clathrosphaera spirifera*";
Trans. Brit. mycol. Soc. **34**: 280—290, 1951.
- Helicosporous Hyphomycetes I;
Trans. Brit. mycol. Soc. **36**: 111—124, 1953.
- Half a century's experience with mould cultures;
Antonie van Leeuwenhoek **25**: 1—20, 1959.
- Fungus cultures and their role in phytopathological and industrial research;
Omagiu lui Traian Săvulescu cu prilejul împlinirii a 70 de ani, Boekarest: 57—60, 1959.