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Foreword

This Commemoration number is dedicated to Dr. Seiya Ito, Professor of Phytopathology and Director of the Botanic Garden of the Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido Imperial University, by his colleagues and pupils to celebrate the twenty-fifth year of his brilliant academic career.

He graduated in 1908 from the College of Agriculture of our University with honours receiving a silver watch bestowed by the Emperor.

Soon after his graduation he was made a lecturer on botany in his alma mater, and then an assistant, and in 1909 an assistant professor and in 1918 a full professor.

In 1917 he took charge of the chair of Plant Physiology, which position he retained until 1920, when a new second chair of Phytopathology dealing with the Physiological Diseases of Plants and Mycology was offered to him, which position he holds up to the present time.

The first chair of Phytopathology concerned with the Parasitic Diseases of Plants was held by the writer until his retirement in 1927. The chair was succeeded later by Prof. Yoshihiko Tochinai.

In 1921 Prof. Ito went abroad for two years to study the type specimens of Japanese Fungi in the museums and universities in America and Europe and to attend the Phytopathological Conferences held in America and Holland.

Under his management, the Phytopathological Laboratory of our University has made a striking development, and a large number of promising young pathologists have been reared.

His connection ever since 1914 with the Agricultural Experiment Station belonging to the Hokkaido Government has given him a rare opportunity to come in actual contact with the vital problems concerned with the diseases of the principal crops and to devise the most effective means for their control.

Prof. Ito's principal contributions to Mycology were on the Uredineae of Japan. His first paper was on the Uredineae parasitic on the Japanese Gramineae which was published in 1909 in which he described 21 species as new to science. In 1911 a paper on the species of Puccinia parasitic on the Japanese Ranunculaceae appeared, and in 1922 a valuable paper on the Uromyces of Japan was published.

There are a dozen more papers of interest on the taxonomy of Japanese Fungi. But his most valuable contribution to Mycology and Phytopathology

is the work done with Mr. K. Kuribayashi on the ascigenous stages of six species of *Helminthosporium* parasitic on the important cereals, which have not been ascertained so far.

Prof. Ito's success in finding out the most effective means of control of the rice-blast disease is of great significance to the national economy, as the average annual loss to our most important staple crop due to the epidemic is calculated to be 10 to 15 million bushels.

For many years Prof. Ito has been engaged in compiling the *Mycological Flora of Japan*, for the completion of which it may require yet many years of assiduous labour. May he be blest of health to accomplish his long cherished desire.

KINGO MIYABE

Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido Imperial University, and
President of the Sapporo Natural History Society

March 1, 1934