Limnology Turns to Warm Lakes*)

By Wilhelm Rodhe, Uppsala

Abstract

The limnological properties and conditions of tropical waters remained largely unknown until 1928—29, when August Thienemann and Franz Ruttner collected huge amounts of material and data from Indonesia (Java, Sumatra and Bali). Their enterprise, the German Limnological Sunda Expedition, laid the foundation of ecological research in warm lakes.

Israel Scientific Research Conferences, the ISRACON, is host of this conference, and all of us are very happy indeed to be here, at the shore of lovely Lake Kinneret. We are sharing a rare privilege: an opportunity to spend a week, or more, in Israel where everything, not the least this area and its lake, has some meaning for mankind, and at the same time the unprecedented chance to present and discuss characteristics of warm lakes in a small group, in a symposium where experiences from different approaches can be focused to illuminate problems of general importance. We are very much looking forward to the days, maybe also the nights, we shall be together. I wish to express the appreciation and thanks of all the participants to ISRACON and to the Israel Council for Research and Development for the invitation and for the efforts to make this conference successful and enjoyable.

Personally, I have a lot of delightful recollections from Israel — this is my tenth visit since I first came to the country, in January, 1966. I have also actively worked in the Kinneret, mostly on primary production and Peridinium, during a sabbatical leave in 1969. But I don't think the honour of delivering the Opening Address to this conference has been given to me to talk about that. Now it appears more appropriate to sketch a few lines in the early background of limnological research in warm lakes. Results of more recent research will certainly be discussed in the days to follow.

Let me start with the beginning of limnology as a science in its own right. It was named and baptized by F.-A. Forel (1892), and Forel is also generally recognized as the father of limnology. He was a professor of

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