

tion water itself is saline. In quality they are neither of them of superior excellence and are little used, if any, for beer-making purposes. The yield is small when compared with that of barley grown on good soils, but it nevertheless seems to pay the French colonists to grow it in these regions where very few plants of any kind succeed. The Arabs feed their horses largely on barley and even eat it themselves. Mr. des Places says, however, that on these saline soils where this barley is grown he finds a change of seed beneficial, even necessary, and he imports every year or two his seed barley and seed wheat from the mountains, because it so rapidly degenerates. These barleys are introduced for a trial on the salt lands of the Southwest. The names given are Arab ones for slightly different strains. Secured of Mr. Charles B. des Places." (*Fairchild and Scofield.*)

7584. HORDEUM TETRASTICHUM.

Barley.

From El-Outaya, Constantine, Algeria. Received through Messrs. D. G. Fairchild and C. S. Scofield (No. 733), September 26, 1901.

Telli. "A barley for salt lands under irrigation. See No. 7583 for description." (*Fairchild and Scofield.*)

7585. TRITICUM TURGIDUM.

Wheat.

From Oran, Algeria. Received through Messrs. D. G. Fairchild and C. S. Scofield (No. 734), September 26, 1901.

Black Poulard. "This is one of the so-called Poulard wheats, a class which is commonly grown in France on stiff or heavy soils unfavorable to the culture of less vigorous sorts. The quality of the grain is considered inferior to that of either *T. durum* or *T. vulgare*. It is particularly valuable on account of its vigorous growth and hardness. It is usually grown as an autumn wheat, but is worthy of trial on any land too heavy or too coarse to produce ordinary wheats to good advantage. The seed was secured from M. Vermeil, professor of agriculture at Oran, who has it growing in his experimental plots under the Arabic name of 'Kahla,' a name which, however, is applied in other parts of Algeria to a quite different variety of wheat. (See Nos. 7581 and 7794.) This is not a macaroni wheat, but may be used for flour making." (*Fairchild and Scofield.*)

7586. MEDICAGO SATIVA.

Alfalfa.

From Setif, province of Constantine, Algeria. Received through Messrs. D. G. Fairchild and C. S. Scofield (No. 735a), November 11, 1901.

"A wild variety which has been introduced into culture by Mr. G. Ryf, of Setif, who is conducting experiments, the results of which are published by the "Comice Agricole," of Setif, of which Mr. Ryf is a prominent member. This variety has been remarkable in its variation since its introduction to cultivation, and the seed should prove an excellent foundation stock from which to select varieties for special soils and conditions. In general it has been found very resistant to drought and well adapted to soils rich in phosphates. Mr. Ryf has an interesting method of cultivating it. He plants the seed in rows 39 inches apart and cultivates between the rows the first season. The following season the crops of hay are cut as rapidly as they come on, and the plants spread out, forming broad bands or rows. The season following, the space between the rows and all but a narrow band 8 inches wide of the alfalfa is plowed under and well tilled. After this cultivation a crop of wheat is sown between the rows of alfalfa, and when this is matured and removed a light cultivation is given, and the following year the rows of alfalfa are allowed to spread out and crops of hay are taken off. In this way wheat and alfalfa are alternated from year to year. Mr. Ryf finds that by following this method the perennial leguminous forage crops give much better results than annual ones. This he attributes largely to the extra amount of cultivation that this method permits. In fact he finds that for his conditions an extra cultivation of the soil gives better results in the following crop than the planting of an annual leguminous crop, with which cultivation is impossible. This is seed from a procumbent form of the plant." (*Fairchild and Scofield.*)

7587. MEDICAGO SATIVA.

Alfalfa.

From Setif, Constantine, Algeria. Received through Messrs. D. G. Fairchild and C. S. Scofield (No. 735a), November 11, 1901.

A wild variety, with erect form. (See No. 7586.)