

**21231 to 21234—Continued.**

previous. The great enemy of oats here is the smut, or black rust. The Chinese combat this in this way:

"They put the oats into a small, well-heated kettle together with 4 ounces of juniper (chaotsiou) to the measure (teou) of 18 t'oungs (say, 6 t'oungs more to the teou than the Peking teou). In order to mix the two thoroughly the kettle is shaken smartly after the manner of winnowing, and then permitted to rest for a few moments.

"Without this precaution smut works havoc here. Because of the scarcity of oats in this region during the past year (the harvest has failed for several years because of drought) I got my seed from the Siao-noor. My harvest of oats succeeded badly. I think the reason of this is to be found in the climate, which is milder than that of Siao-noor. My harvest resulted in a yield which was half smut. Those who used less juniper in the preparation of the seed obtained a yield which was a little more than a third good grain. We notice here that the oats sown in fine weather give a yield very different from those sown in cold and cloudy weather; hence, the sowing should be done on fine, sunny days.

"As to the general features of our district of Moa Ming-ngan, there is a succession of undulating plains, interspersed with occasional rocky mountains. The soil is stony and in working it the plows often break. Our region is at a much greater elevation than the town of Pao-t'ou; from that point there is a two days' journey, rising continually all the way." (*François de Bock, missionary.*)

"NOTE.—The t'oung (or t'ung) referred to by the writer seems to be the official tube, kept in the magistrate's yamen, with which to test measures of capacity.

"All efforts to secure uniform weights and measures in China have thus far proved failures. Every county seems to have its own peck and pound. The teou (or tou) mentioned is that commonly called the "peck" by foreigners. It varies in various districts from 4 liters or a little more to 42 liters. The Peking liter, to which reference is made, is perhaps that used in measuring the tribute rice, which contains  $\frac{10}{11}$  liter, or about 630.5 cubic inches—that is, about 1.17 pecks." (*Rockhill.*)

**21235. (Undetermined.)**

From Victoria, Kamerun, West Africa. Presented by Dr. A. Weberbauer. Received July 29, 1907.

Sent in as *Sideroxylon dulcificum*. According to Prof. C. F. Wheeler it is something different.

**21236. CEPHALOSTACHYUM PERGRACILE.**

From St. Symphorien, Belgium. Presented by Mr. Jean Houzeau de Lehaie. Received July 27, 1907.

"This plant is found growing in the Singhhúm forests of Chota Nagpore; Sibságar lakhimpur and Naga Hills in Assam; all over Burma, where very common and often gregarious. A deciduous, arboreous, tufted bamboo, with glaucous-green culms 30 to 40 feet high, 2 to 3 inches in diameter, and rather thin walled, the walls usually about one-half inch thick. It is one of the chief bamboos of Burma, and one of those most frequently found in association with teak. It flowers usually gregariously, but also sporadically, though when thus flowering it rarely produces good seed, following in this the example of the male bamboo. The culms are used in building and mat making, and rice is often cooked in the joints to be easily carried on a journey. In Assam it is used for basket work." (*Gamble, Manual of Indian Timbers.*)

**21237 to 21241.**

From Peking, China. Received through Mr. E. H. Wilson, of the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass., in cooperation with this office. Received July 29, 1907.

Although these seeds came via Peking they were probably collected near Ichang, Hupeh, where Mr. Wilson had his headquarters.