

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1908: INVENTORY NO. 17; NOS. 23745 TO 24429.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

It has been the custom for some time to mention in the introductory statement a few of the new arrivals which seem to be worthy the particular attention of the interested plant breeders and experimenters throughout the country. This does not mean that they will in the end prove the most valuable, for often the promising introductions are "dead failures," while those which come in like poor emigrants with scarcely a letter of introduction frequently crop up later somewhere in the country as new and valuable cultivated plants.

Those who are interested in the remarkable Chinese vegetables, whose possibilities have not at all been tested as they should be in this country, will find Mr. Meyer's collection, which he brought back personally from Peking, a most interesting one (No. 23932 and following). There can be little doubt that the Chinese restaurants which are scattered all over the country are creating a taste among Americans for these new vegetables, and the next step in their introduction will be their culture on a small scale to supply the growing demand of these restaurants.

Mr. W. T. Swingle has called attention to the possibilities of the Indian bael fruit (No. 23745), both as a possible new fruit which is prized in India and as a dry-land stock for the orange, and living plants of it have been secured.

Through Mr. Pink, a plant breeder of Queensland, a new raspberry has been secured which he claims has already become a favorite in Australia (No. 23478).

The Florida and California growers of the fruiting hedge plant *Carissa* will be interested in the newly secured species from Calcutta (No. 23750).

A new green-manure legume from Sao Paulo, Brazil, is highly recommended by Professor Hart (No. 23751).

A large collection of beans, cowpeas, squashes, field peas, and garbanzos and some remarkable hard-stemmed bamboos, which are quite different from the ordinary oriental bamboos, have been sent by Mr. Husbands (No. 23755 and following; No. 24211 and following; No. 24358 and following).