

SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1909: INVENTORY NO. 21; NOS. 26048 TO 26470.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

Although our agricultural explorer Mr. Frank N. Meyer has been in the field during the period covered by this inventory, the material received from him which is herein recorded is but a small part of the work performed by him. He has been investigating the prevalence of the crown-gall disease of the apple in France for the purpose of ascertaining whether the French have resistant stocks; making studies in the English, French, German, and Russian arboreta for the purpose of familiarizing himself with the important plants and plant cultures of Chinese Turkestan, which region it is expected he will explore this summer; and he has been unexpectedly delayed for six weeks in St. Petersburg. This office is negotiating by correspondence for the valuable material he has reported in the different arboreta.

To the fruit growers the question of better stock plants is of great importance and is being emphasized more strongly now than ever before. To such as are working on the problem, the introduction from Palestine, through Mr. Aaron Aaronsohn, of a large red-fruited variety of haw, *Crataegus azarolus* (Nos. 26116 and 26354), will be interesting. It has been used successfully both in Tunis and Palestine and is considered by Mr. Aaronsohn to be an ideal stock for dwarf early pears in our arid irrigated regions of the Southwest, where the question of growing early pears is attracting attention. A species of *Photinia* (No. 26133) from western China is sent in by Mr. Meyer, who suggests its use as a possible stock for the loquat.

The possibility of using the Chinese brambles for the production of new types of raspberries has been pointed out as promising. For those interested in this field, nine species of *Rubus* from the Yangtze Valley (Nos. 26270 to 26278), collected by Mr. E. H. Wilson, of the Arnold Arboretum, are likely to prove of very considerable interest.