

seeds and plants so far as was possible from the fragmentary material often sent in. It was not then and is not now always possible to identify a new introduction without first growing it, and it is as impracticable to postpone the publication of its importation for months or years, awaiting its flowering and fruiting, as it is to get some of our correspondents to prepare good botanical specimens and send these in with the seeds and plants. Corrections of the preliminary identifications must be made later.

To Mr. H. C. Skeels was intrusted the task of identifying the seeds and to Mr. W. F. Wight the plants, and arrangements were made by which this was done under the general supervision of Mr. Frederick V. Coville, botanist in charge of the Office of Taxonomic and Range Investigations. To nothing, perhaps, more than to the faithful care of Miss Mary A. Austin is due the accuracy and completeness of these quarterly inventories, and her resignation from the service, which occurred at the completion of this inventory, has been a matter of keen regret to all who have been working with her on the records of the office.

Owing to the delays incident to the publication of such a technical bulletin as this inventory, it has been found necessary to issue twice a month what might be termed advance sheets of information, being a bulletin called "Plant Immigrants," announcing promptly the arrival of new plants and soliciting applications for them by reputable experimenters at the State experiment stations and elsewhere. The quarterly publication of the inventories makes it possible to have on the shelves of the experimenter the data regarding his new plants at the time he is working with them, since, with the exception of annuals, almost all species are first propagated in the various field stations of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction and distributed the following season in the shape of plants.

It has been customary in these introductions to the printed inventories to single out some of the more interesting importations. The following importations listed in this inventory appear to the writer as worthy of special mention:

No. 33279, the Alger Navel orange, a variety originated by Dr. L. Trabut, of Algiers; No. 33281, a new sweet sorghum, apparently related to the Red Amber variety, from German East Africa; No. 33290, *Lathyrus mulkaka*, from the mountain slopes of Bokhara, which Mr. Frank N. Meyer says is perennial and could be used for the creation of a perennial sweet pea; Nos. 33295 to 33301, seven varieties and species of *Trigonella* for trial in comparison with *T. foenum-graecum*, the fenugreek of Egypt and Tunis; Nos. 33303 to 33307, five species of *Hedysarum* for breeding purposes and trial in comparison with *sulla*, the great forage crop of Malta; No. 33308, *Spinacia tetrandra*, a wild spinach from central Asia, to assist in the