

34617. ASPARAGUS FILICINUS Hamilton. **Asparagus.**

From India. Presented by Mr. Norman Gill, superintendent, Kumaun Government Gardens, Jeolikote, United Provinces. Received November 20, 1912.

See S. P. I. No. 34473 for previous introduction.

Roots.

34618. MEDICAGO SATIVA GLUTINOSA (Bieb.) Urban. **Alfalfa.**

From Dublin, Ireland. Presented by Sir F. W. Moore, Royal Botanic Garden. Received November 19, 1912.

"During the summer of 1911 a plant of *Medicago glutinosa* was noticed by me in the collection of alfalfas in the Royal Botanic Garden, Dublin. The plant seemed to be the true *M. glutinosa*, as evidenced by the yellow color of the flowers; also by the pods, which had from 1 to 1½ turns; glandular hairs were also present. Seeds of this plant were secured, but all of the seedlings raised at Washington produced purplish flowers and pods having from 2 to 3 turns, probably brought about by the cross-pollination through insects. This is all the more likely, as there were numerous purple-flowered forms of *Medicago sativa* growing in the immediate vicinity of the *glutinosa* plants." (G. W. Oliver.)

34619. CEIBA PENTANDRA (L.) Gaertner. **Kapok.**
(*Eriodendron anfractuosum* DC.)

From Sandakan, British North Borneo. Presented by Mr. Orlando H. Baker, American consul. Received September 24, 1912. Numbered November 21, 1912.

"The kapok tree, native in the American Tropics, is widely distributed in the Tropics of both hemispheres. It attains a height of 75 to 100 feet with wide-spreading horizontal branches, making an attractive ornamental or shade tree. It is often planted along the borders of fields for fence posts. It begins to bear seed pods with kapok down when about 5 years old, and the yield of pods increases with the age of the tree. Well-developed trees under favorable conditions yield about 7,000 pounds per acre. Kapok can not be spun, but it is an excellent material for stuffing pillows, mattresses, life preservers, etc., and its use is rapidly increasing. (L. H. Dewey.)

34620 and 34621.

From Nice, Alpes Maritimes, France. Presented by Dr. A. Robertson Proschowsky, Chemin des Grottes, St. Helene. Received November 20, 1912.

Quoted notes by Dr. Proschowsky:

34620. ASPARAGUS ACUTIFOLIUS L. **Asparagus.**

"This plant is abundant here in a wild state, and the young shoots are gathered and form quite a regular article of commerce in the market. The shoots are much thinner than those of *A. officinalis* L. (in its cultivated form), but are very delicate of taste. The plant grows in the very worst places as concerns absence of soil (in fissures of rocks, high on slopes of gravel, etc.), as well in the full burning sun as in deep shade, and it seems to me that so drought resisting a plant would be worth ameliorating. So I send you seeds for trial in desert countries."

34621. MAYTENUS BOARIA Molina. **Maiten.**

"A very graceful evergreen tree, exceedingly drought resisting, the foliage of which is much appreciated in Chile, its native country, as cattle fodder."