

noted place at Wellesley, Mass.; molave, *Vitex parviflora* A. Juss. (No. 37705), the forest tree producing one of the best high-grade building timbers in the Philippines; and the sycamore tree of the Bible, *Ficus sycomorus* L. (No. 37729), a long-lived tree much esteemed for its shade, which the Arabs beat to induce it to bear its inferior figs.

#### FIBER PLANTS.

Two fiber plants were brought from Brazil by the expedition sent there in October, 1913: The caroá, *Neoglaziovia variegata* (Arruda) Mez, from Joazeiro (No. 37794), a species of Bromeliaceæ growing wild in the caatinga lands along the Sao Francisco River and used by the natives for hammock ropes, and the piassava palm, *Attalea funifera* Martius (No. 37868), from Bahia, from the fiber of which most excellent brooms and brushes are made, while from the hard nuts buttons are manufactured.

#### VEGETABLES.

Of new vegetables there are a number of unusually interesting species. Mr. Wester sends from Manila a new variety of roselle (No. 37698) which matures 20 days earlier than the Victor variety and may be useful as a jelly producer farther north than the Victor can be grown; he directs attention also to a cucumber (No. 37700) introduced into the Philippines from Seharunpur, which has shown resistance to insect attacks and is proving to be one of the best sorts of cucumbers for trial in the Tropics; E. Webb & Sons, of Wordsley, England, have sent in No. 37807, which purports to be a hybrid between thousand-headed kale and kohlrabi, a vegetable with a thickened stem growing 5 feet high, which is suitable for forage during the winter; Mr. Meyer has secured plants of the Chinese ginger (No. 38180), the candied rhizomes of which are shipped from China to America in great quantities; five varieties (Nos. 38356 to 38360) of the very best starch, table, and feeding potatoes of Polish origin, bred by the Polish plant breeder, Henry Dotowski, have been secured; from New Zealand has been brought in the New Era potato (No. 37947), which, according to J. G. Harris, of Raetihi, has not been affected by potato blight, whereas other varieties on either side of it have been blackened. What resembles closely the yampee yam of Jamaica, *Dioscorea alata* L. (No. 37943), seems to have secured a foothold at Avon Park, Fla., and is doing as well there, according to Mr. J. De Hoff, as the sweet potato. It deserves serious study. From the region about Coban, Guatemala, Mr. O. F. Cook, during his expedition there in 1914, sent seeds of the remarkable pacaya salad palm, *Chamaedorea* sp. (Nos. 38403 and 38404),