

a rare species of *Anacardium* (No. 38209) from Cuba, related to the cashew, which might prove a good stock for that fruit; the fruta de condessa (No. 38171), an indigenous annonaceous fruit, *Rollinia deliciosa* Safford, from Rio de Janeiro; the guabiroba, *Campomanesia fenzliana* (Berg) Glaziou (No. 37834), a Brazilian myrtaceous fruit resembling the guava, but stronger flavored and highly esteemed for jellies; three new *Eugenias* with edible fruits, suited to culture in Florida (Nos. 37830 to 37832); the bright yellow-fruited *Rheedia brasiliensis* (Mart.) Planch. and Triana (No. 37802) from Rio de Janeiro, strongly resembling in taste the famous mangosteen; the imbu, *Spondias tuberosa* Arruda (Nos. 37861 to 37865), from Januaria, one of the most popular fruits of the interior of Brazil.

The most important addition to subtropical fruits, however, is doubtless that made by the Guatemala expedition under the charge of Mr. O. F. Cook, in the shape of 24 varieties of hard-shelled avocados (Nos. 38477, 38549 to 38564, 38578, 38581, 38583, 38587, and 38638 to 38640) collected in the region of Coban, Antigua, and the city of Guatemala, some of them at an altitude of 5,000 feet. As these ripen late, in the winter and spring, and are of good quality, some of them should be of special value in assisting the development of that remarkable new fruit industry which is rapidly getting on its feet in southern California and southern Florida.

MISCELLANEOUS PLANTS OF INTEREST.

The discovery of a new oil plant seems to have been made in the Ngart, *Plukenetia conophora* Muell. Arg. (No. 38644), a creeping plant from Kamerun, which is cultivated in the cornfields there and bears nuts the size of walnuts which contain 53.8 per cent of an oil similar to linseed oil, which is used for cooking and also as a drying oil. From the leaves of the carnauba wax palm, *Copernicia cerifera* Martius (No. 37866), a wax is secured that was formerly used for phonograph records. Their fruits are said to be an excellent hog feed, and a grove of palms for hog pasturage seems not to be an impossibility.

The Chia, a species of *Salvia* (No. 38048), from the swollen seeds of which, according to Purpus, the Mexicans make a refreshing drink which was used by the ancient Aztecs, should interest amateurs in the South, as well as the ava plant, *Piper methysticum* Forster (No. 38291), from which the South Sea Island kava is made. The true gum-arabic acacia, *Acacia verec* Guill. and Per. (No. 38524), from Khartum, may be capable of acclimatization in our southwestern desert region.