

tioned, according to Mr. Cook, but has very remarkable keeping qualities, tubers of it remaining fresh after an exposure of more than six months to room temperatures. Mr. Cook suggests that it might be hybridized with the flowering nasturtiums of our gardens and produce new varieties which could be perpetuated by tubers.

The fourth root crop described by Mr. Cook is the llacono (*Polymnia sonchifolia*, No. 41188), which belongs to the sunflower family and produces tubers resembling sweet potatoes in shape, but tasting like the Jerusalem artichoke.

Although Peru is recognized generally as the home of the potato, it is doubtful whether even the American breeders have known the extent to which the potato has been developed by the inhabitants of the Andes. Mr. Cook's collection of 47 varieties (Nos. 41197 to 41243), each with a distinctive native name, gives some indication of the development which has taken place in the home of the potato.

Of material received from Mr. Frank N. Meyer, who was exploring in the region south of Shanghai, little is described in this inventory. The most interesting appears to be a variety of the nagi (*Myrica rubra*, No. 41256), which bears fruits as large as crab apples, of a dark-purple color, extremely attractive appearance, and fine flavor. Mr. Meyer's investigations near Hangchow, China, show that this species of fruit tree exists in numerous varieties and constitutes a new crop which deserves to be tested on well-drained soils in our Gulf States.

Mr. Wilson Popenoe, during a brief visit to Cuba, studied the Cuban varieties of the mango and avocado and sent in what from his experience with Florida and California conditions he believes to be the most promising Cuban varieties of these fruits (Nos. 40911, 40912, 40920, 40921, and 40978 to 40982). He recommends as a new ornamental tree and for trial as a stock for the mango the nariz (*Anacardium excelsum*, No. 40987).

The newly aroused interest in the chayote (*Chayota edulis*) makes the collection of six selected varieties from San Jose, Costa Rica (Nos. 41135 to 41140), of unusual importance, and Mr. Wercklé's remark that over 100 pounds of the edible roots are dug from a single plant of certain green-fruited varieties calls attention to a portion of the plant which has not yet been utilized by us.

The time may not have arrived when plantations of tropical forest trees grown for their timber will be a paying proposition, but when it does the ucuúba (*Virola surinamensis*, No. 41255), which the veteran student of tropical agriculture, the late Doctor Huber, considered the most useful tree of the Amazon region, will come in for consideration. Its easily worked, moderately hard wood, as also its seeds, which furnish a kind of vegetable wax rich in stearin, may make it eligible for plantation purposes.