

42793 to 42798—Continued.

42798. *PYRUS SINAI* Desf. Malaceæ. Pear.
(*P. sinaica* Dum.-Cours.)

This pear, which is related to *Pyrus amygdaliformis*, is supposed to have originated in Asia Minor or the islands of the Grecian Archipelago. Its leaves in spring are white with down, becoming smooth and shiny later. (Adapted from W. J. Bean, *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, vol. 2, p. 273.)

42799. *ALPINIA EXALTATA* (L. f.) Roem. and Schult. Zinziberaceæ.
(*Renealmia exaltata* L. f.)

Received through Mr. W. E. Safford, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, May 8, 1916.

"A plant belonging to the ginger family, widely spread in tropical America. In Porto Rico it is commonly known as *Bihao*, or *Vijao grande*. The broad thin membranaceous leaves, usually acuminate at the apex and tapering at the base, are somewhat like those of a canna. The inflorescence is a long simple raceme, with magenta-colored or reddish purple peduncle and bracts and yellow flowers. The fleshy, obovoid, or oval fruit usually borne on a recurved pedicel (when mature) is black at length and yields a dye of some importance." (*Safford*.)

- 42800 and 42801. *ARACHIS HYPOGAEA* L. Fabaceæ. Peanut.

From Tsingtau, China. Presented by Mr. Willys R. Peck, American consul. Received May 18, 1916.

42800. "The large ordinary peanut of trade, grown in Shantung Province. This variety was imported into Shantung within comparatively recent years. The writer recollects that some twenty years ago they were a rarity in the province." (*Peck*.)

42801. "A small wrinkled sort that, I am informed by an American resident from the Southern States, is found in the southern part of the United States and is known colloquially as *goober*. This variety is indigenous, but has, in its turn, become comparatively rare. None were obtainable in this consular district, these seeds having come from Tsinanfu, 250 miles away." (*Peck*.)

42802. *COLOCASIA ESCULENTA* (L.) Schott. Araceæ. Taro.

From Chungking, Szechwan Province, China. Tubers presented by Mr. E. Widler. Received May 19, 1916.

"The taro is cultivated in Szechwan in summer wherever a good water supply is available. Each plant produces 7 to 15 egg-shaped tubers; they are cooked whole or sliced and fried in sauce of various kinds. The plant has been known since before the Han period." (*Widler*.)

- 42803 to 42805.

From San Jose, Costa Rica. Presented by Mr. Carlos Wercklé, Department of Agriculture. Received May 23, 1916.