

be produced between it and the avocado are questions for the breeders to decide. It is certain that breeders ought to have a chance to cross these various species under all sorts of conditions.

A remarkable collection of field and garden beans (Nos. 43492 to 43543), particularly from the Northern Circle, Burma, is presented by the Deputy Director of Agriculture at Mandalay.

The pickled mume of Japan (No. 43558), although forming part of the army ration of the Japanese, is as little known in America as though it were produced by a tree growing on some other planet. Interest in it is being aroused mainly because of the remarkable picturesqueness of the tree when in flower, but the value of its pickled fruits deserves our consideration.

Plants of the tussock grass (No. 43564), of the Falkland Islands, are presented by Mr. W. A. Harding, manager of the Falkland Islands Company. It is there considered not only an excellent forage grass, but is used like asparagus for human food, the young shoots having a nutty flavor.

The chufa industry of southeastern Spain is an important one, and the use of the small tubers for the production of the favorite beverage called horchata de chufa has already attracted the attention of American travelers. Consul Sprague gives a description of the culture under irrigation of this peculiar tuber (No. 43578), which contains a very appreciable amount of vegetable fat and a form of mannite. Apparently the main obstacle to growing this tuberous-rooted sedge in this country has been the difficulty of harvesting the tubers. Grown as they are in Spain, this difficulty seems largely to be reduced.

The so-called bonavist bean (*Dolichos lablab*) has begun to attract some attention in Florida as a cover crop for avocado and citrus orchards, making a dense growth and covering the ground well without climbing into the trees. It produces quantities of excellent beans, which when properly cooked are extremely palatable. The variety "Nankinicus" from Georgetown, British Guiana (No. 43594) and the large collection from Burma (Nos. 43505 to 43517) introduced at Mr. Piper's solicitation may bring forward varieties of better quality than the common one now grown in Florida, which came from the Bahamas. The bonavist bean appears to be peculiarly adapted to culture in Florida and deserves the serious consideration of horticulturists there.

A collection of rare and promising shrubs and ornamental trees presented by Prof. C. S. Sargent, of the Arnold Arboretum, includes many hardy and beautiful species from China and Japan collected by Mr. E. H. Wilson and other explorers (Nos. 43675 to 43701, 43703 to 43736, and 43810 to 43925). Sixty-one species of the genus *Rosa* form a part of this collection, and these are at the disposal of the rose breeders of the country both for trial as stocks and for pur-