

heavily. Recent information indicates that the silk from silkworms fed upon the leaves of this plant is different from ordinary silk and that lute strings made from it give a clearer tone than those made of silk spun by silkworms fed on the ordinary mulberry leaves. This fact doubtless will be of interest to all those studying the influence of foods upon the secretions of animal bodies. Silk being a typical protein, like the white of eggs or the casein of milk, facts discovered regarding changes in its character might have a bearing upon the studies of the changes in the character of other proteins.

A wild bush tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*, No. 44245), with wrinkled fruits, from Panama, where it appears, according to Mr. O. W. Barrett, to be resistant to wilt (*Bacillus solanacearum*).

A collection of Chinese peach varieties (*Amygdalus* spp., Nos. 44253 to 44266) from Kiangsu Province, China, secured through the Rev. Lacy L. Little, of Kiangyin, among them one variety from the famous Lushang Gardens.

In Nairobi, British East Africa, the inner bark of *Strychnos spinosa* (No. 44019) appears to be used successfully as an antidote for snake bites and deserves to be investigated. The fact that this plant grows so successfully in southern Florida, where rattlesnakes and moccasins are frequent, may make the wide distribution which has been made of it a thing well worth while. In any event, it deserves study from this new point of view.

The pepino (*Solanum muricatum*, Nos. 44021 and 44022) appears to be represented in Ecuador by two distinct varieties, one white and the other purple. As this is a fruit of excellent quality, practically seedless, and adapted for salads, it seems a pity that a more thorough test of it has not been made in America. Enough ought to be produced to place it on our markets for several years, for a fruit which has become so popular in the Canary Islands surely has a chance in America.

A new annual legume (*Aeschynomene* sp., No. 44040), for soil fertilization, from Costa Rica, which, though not certainly a forage crop, is reported to have unusual quantities of nitrogen-collecting nodules on its roots.

Sixteen distinct species or hybrids of the genus *Pyrus* (Nos. 44041 to 44056), from the Arnold Arboretum. These deserve a thorough trial as stocks for the cultivated pear. This is particularly interesting at this time, when the question of shutting out European-grown nursery stock and the creation of a more uniform root system for our orchard trees appear as problems of great importance.

Few shrubs strike the American visitor to England as adding more to the charm of the grounds of small cottages than do the cotoneasters, which are extensively used in dooryards. Many of those used in England are tender here, but certain of the Chinese