



BEECHIS AS THEY ARE SOLD IN THE CHINESE MARKETS.

(*Eleocharis tuberosa* (Roxb.) Schult., S. P. I. No. 44573.)

These beechis, water nuts, or water chestnuts, as the underground bulblike rootstocks of this sedge are variously called, form the most tender and palatable part of the Chinese chop suey and have a flavor suggestive of coconuts. They are sold either as gathered (as shown at the right) or peeled and strung on bamboo sticks (at the left). In the latter form they cost 1 to 3 cents (Mex.) per stick. While they are usually eaten raw, they are sometimes steamed. When grated they are said to form an excellent substitute for sweet corn. (Photographed by F. N. Meyer, Changsha, Hunan Province, China, May 16, 1917; P120&FS)