

red-stalked leaves are in two rows on the pendulous twigs. This tree is a shy bearer in Egypt, probably on account of the heat and the dry air." (*Bircher*.)

45580. PERSEA AMERICANA Mill. Lauraceæ. Avocado.
(*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

From the city of Guatemala, Guatemala. Seeds collected by Mr. Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer for the Department of Agriculture. Received December 19, 1917.

Avocado seeds introduced for stock purposes.

45581. IRIS ORIENTALIS Mill. Iridaceæ. Iris.
(*I. ochroleuca* L.)

From Bellingham, Wash. Bulbs presented by Mr. C. T. Canfield. Received December 20, 1917.

"A species from high table-lands of Turkestan. I admire it more for foliage effect. It delights in stiff clay loam." (*Canfield*.)

One of the largest of the irises. The plants grow in strong clumps; the leaves are 2 to 3 feet long, 1 inch or more broad, and slightly glaucous. The stem is 3 feet tall, stout, terete, about as long as the leaves, with two to three spicate clusters of flowers, the outer segments of which are obovate, 1 inch broad, as long as the claw, yellow, paler or white toward the margin, and the inner segments oblong, 1 inch broad, lemon yellow to whitish. It grows in almost any situation. Native to Asia Minor and Syria. (Adapted from *Bailey, Standard Cyclopaedia of Horticulture, vol. 3, p. 1678.*)

Received as *Iris gigantea*.

45582 and 45583.

From Madrid, Spain. Seeds presented by the director of the Botanic Garden. Received December 11, 1917.

45582. CONVULVULUS SCAMMONIA L. Convolvulaceæ. Scammony.

The plant has a large, tapering, fleshy root, 3 to 4 feet long, 9 to 12 inches in circumference, and abounding in a milky juice. It is this juice, in a concentrated form, which constitutes the drug called scammony. In its medicinal action scammony is a violent purgative and is therefore seldom used except along with other cathartics, by which its action is mitigated and theirs promoted. Native to Syria and the Levant. (Adapted from *Hogg, Vegetable Kingdom, p. 536.*)

45583. PARIETARIA OFFICINALIS L. Urticaceæ.

A bushy plant from 12 to 18 inches high, with reddish brittle stems, oblong-ovate dull-green leaves, and tufts of small greenish flowers in the axils of the upper leaves. It is sometimes used as a potherb. While the ashes of the plant are said to contain a quantity of niter, its medicinal properties are almost negligible. The proportion of potassium nitrate which it contains is really too inconsiderable to enter seriously into account; nevertheless, it passes for an emollient and diuretic and as such has sometimes been prescribed in diseases in which inflammation is to be reduced. (Adapted from *Lindley, Treasury of Botany, p. 846; National Standard Dispensatory, p. 1613; and Heraud, Dictionnaire des Plantes Medicinales, p. 458.*)