

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 1918 (NO. 55; NOS. 45972 TO 46302).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

It seems appropriate in this inventory in which are described in his own words the last of Mr. Frank N. Meyer's introductions from China, to give a brief statement regarding his agricultural explorations. These inventories have been the chief medium of publicity through which his discoveries have been made known to the horticultural world. All the plants which he found and imported he described, and the descriptions have appeared in the volumes of this serial publication. These descriptions are not long, but in almost every case they characterize very well the plants and point out the particular value which they are likely to have in America. In this respect they are remarkable and deserve the study of agricultural explorers who may come after him.

Mr. Meyer's first expedition to China covered the period from July, 1905, to July, 1908, and included explorations in Manchuria, Chosen (Korea), and the Chinese Provinces of Chihli, Shansi, Shantung, Honan, Hupeh, and Kiangsi. This period is represented by the introductions which will be found scattered between the numbers 16909 and 24596. His second expedition was from August, 1909, to April, 1912, and numbers between 26131 to 34183 give the descriptions of his collections in England, Belgium, France, Germany, Russia, Crimea, Caucasus, Russian Turkestan, Chinese Turkestan, and Siberia. His third expedition was in Siberia and in the Chinese Provinces of Shantung, Shansi, Shensi, Kansu to the borders of Tibet, Honan, Kiangsu, Anhwei, and Chekiang during the period from November, 1912, to December, 1915, and he describes his introductions under numbers to be found between 35253 and 43022. His fourth trip included Japan and the Chinese Provinces of Shantung, Kiangsu, Honan, Hupeh, Hunan, and Anhwei during the period from October, 1916, until his death in June, 1918, and the