

thousands of new plants which the man of the coming centuries is going to need and use.

A number of valuable plant introductions are described in this inventory. In his remarkable work, "Farmers of Forty Centuries," King calls attention to the fact that the Chinese pay 28 cents a pound for the young shoots of a certain species of clover, or six times as much as they do for any other vegetable. It is not only eaten fresh but dried and used in soups. In view of the value placed upon the fat soluble vitamine which occurs in green leafy vegetables it has seemed worth while to introduce this species (*Astragalus sinicus*, No. 45995) for experimental purposes.

Mr. Barbour Lathrop, during his last trip to Japan, discovered that among the Japanese of all social classes the mitsuba (*Deringa canadensis*, No. 46137) was a common and universally appreciated vegetable. It is a strange circumstance that, although this species is found wild in the woods of the Atlantic coast and as far west as the Mississippi and has for a century or more been cultivated extensively in Japan, no attempt has ever been made to utilize it in America until Mr. Lathrop called attention to it. It is more easily grown than celery, has a characteristic flavor of its own, and would doubtless fit easily into the menu of those who once become familiar with its taste.

In the hammock lands of southern Florida, where every year hundreds of acres are devoted to the raising of early potatoes for the northern market, February frosts or flooding from unusually heavy rains make potatoes a precarious crop. On these lands the tropical yautia grows and produces amazingly, not being affected by flooding and recovering quickly from frost injuries. The tubers when properly prepared form a delicate vegetable, comparing in this respect with the best potatoes. The introduction of a new variety (No. 46030) whose tubers have yellow flesh instead of white and a more mealy character, which make it preferred to all others in Porto Rico, is worthy of special mention. It is known in Guadeloupe as the malanga coloré.

The Australian casaba (No. 46029), which produces fruits the size of a cucumber that are esteemed very highly in Australia for pies and are eaten there fresh with sugar, might be worth testing in our own casaba-melon areas.

The Puget Sound region seems to be one in America where Himalayan plants are most at home, and Dr. Cave's collection of seeds from Darjiling has in it several unusually interesting species. The giant lily (*Lilium giganteum*, No. 46085), which grows to 12 feet in height and bears fragrant yellow-throated blooms; the Nepal lily (*L. nepalense*, No. 46086) with deep maroon-purple, almost