

"This species is common on the slopes of the valley of Mexico, and is still used by the Indians to a limited extent. Doubtless, it was of much greater importance as a foodstuff in ancient times than it is to-day. Mrs. Nuttall has planted in her garden a number of bulbs gathered on the hillsides near her home and has found that they multiply rapidly and require no cultural attention. When in bloom, the plants are beautiful, their flowers varying from yellow to deep scarlet in color. As an ornamental plant the *Tigridia* is already known in other countries, but the use of its bulbs as an article of food is not common outside of Mexico. When fully developed, the bulbs are slightly less than 2 inches in diameter. For eating, they are usually boiled, or parboiled and fried. When boiled they are mealy and have a very agreeable flavor somewhat suggesting that of chestnuts.

"It is suggested by Mrs. Nuttall that the cacomite be given a careful trial in the southern United States as a root crop. When grown from seed it requires two seasons for the bulbs to reach maturity, but they demand very little cultural attention, and the ornamental character of the flowers should make the cultivation of the cacomite very attractive to those who are interested in new and rare vegetables." (*Wilson Popenoe.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 11627, Inv. 11, p. 63 ("Undetermined"), which has been identified as *Tigridia pavonia*.

#### 46982. *TUTCHERIA SPECTABILIS* (Champ.) Dunn. Theaceæ.

From Hongkong, China. Presented by the Botanical and Forestry Department. Received January 23, 1919.

A handsome, ornamental small tree or shrub, indigenous to the island of Hongkong. The leaves are alternate, short petioled, coriaceous, and shining. The flowers are about 2½ inches in diameter, usually having seven white, roundish obovate petals. The fruit, which is the size of a small apple, retains at the base the persistent sepals, and contains several fairly large seeds. The plant flowers in May and fruits in November. (Adapted from *Champion, Transactions of the Linnæan Society, vol. 21, p. 111.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 45720.

#### 46983. *MANISURIS EXALTATA* (L. f.) Kuntze. Poaceæ. (*Rottboellia exaltata* L. f.)

From the Philippine Islands. Sent by Dr. W. H. Weston to the Office of Acclimatization and Adaptation of Crop Plants. Received January 9, 1919.

From fields near the experiment station farm, College of Agriculture, Los Banos, Philippine Islands. This seed was introduced for the use of the officials of the Office of Acclimatization and Adaptation of Crop Plants.

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 39927.

#### 46984. *PERSEA AMERICANA* Mill. Lauraceæ. **Avocado.** (*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

From Ambato, Ecuador. Bud sticks collected by Dr. J. N. Rose. Numbered January, 1919.

"Avocado from Ambato. Fruit brownish to black, but sometimes green or red, 2½ to 4 inches long. A fine fruit but small." (*Rose.*)

"Budwood of an avocado from Ambato, with sassafras-scented leaves. This variety apparently belongs to the Mexican race. It is likely to be hardier than