

tant article of food on the western slopes of the Cordillera Oriental. These seeds are sometimes 2 inches long and when cooked are more agreeable in flavor and more delicate than the ordinary bean.

So little has been done in the way of selecting superior seedlings of the tropical fruits that Mr. Popenoe's discovery of a variety of the soursop (*Annona muricata*, No. 51050), which is more productive than the ordinary seedling and has unusually handsome fruits, will interest tropical horticulturists generally.

J. A. Hamilton, of Cairns, northern Queensland, Australia, believes his new Improved Dwarf Lima bean (*Phaseolus lunatus*, No. 50999) is better adapted to subtropical regions than Burpee's Bush Lima.

Dr. Proschowsky, of Nice, France, sends in *Alectryon subcinereum* (No. 51000), a relative of the lychee; he suggests that it may prove a good stock for that valuable Chinese fruit tree.

Mr. Macmillan sends in seeds of the giant bamboo (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*, No. 51026) of the Malay Peninsula, which grows more than 100 feet tall and 30 inches in circumference. As it seeds very infrequently, this variety should now be given a thorough trial in southern Florida.

Mr. Poynton, of Auckland, New Zealand, presents seeds of the pohutukawa tree (*Metrosideros tomentosa*, No. 51048) which grows on the shores of the North Island. Its thick evergreen leaves withstand salt spray remarkably well, and in the New Zealand summer the plant is covered with a profusion of scarlet blossoms. It should be useful on the shores of California.

There is something peculiarly romantic in Mr. Poynton's story of how the beautiful puka tree (*Meryta sinclairii*, No. 51049) of New Zealand was saved, after it had become so nearly extinct that there remained only 27 plants of it on some small islands in the Hauraki Gulf; all the trees now planted in the parks and gardens of that country came from cuttings of these specimens. It has the largest leaves of any plant in New Zealand.

Ornamental-berried house plants which will keep their freshness and their show of fruits for a long time are not common, and Mr. Johnson may have found a new one in his as yet undetermined species of *Ardisia* (No. 51052) from Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala. Mr. Johnson's introduction of two new species of the true pepper (Nos. 51059 and 51060), which have a slightly different flavor from that of the commercial species, *P. nigrum*, may have some economic importance for tropical horticulture.

The passifloras, or passion fruits, form a fascinating field for the plant breeder, and it is hard to understand why no one has studied them, especially since there are forms like *Passiflora macrocarpa*