

with yields comparable to the best European varieties. What will happen to the black rice of Burma (No. 52751), which Mr. Rock found and used with keen relish as a breakfast dish at Moulmein, time only can decide. He declares it is a grain especially prized in Siam and when served as he used it is particularly delicious. What might it be when puffed?

The fundi grass of Sierra Leone, *Digitaria exilis* (No. 52736), which is grown by the Nigerian tribe as a supplemental food grain, may prove too expensive for production on a large scale because of the small size of its kernels; but, like the Abyssinian teff, it deserves to be thoroughly investigated as having possibly some particular use for invalids.

Forage and fodder plants.—Fodder trees have received little attention in this country, though in the drier parts of India and Australia much use is made of them. Two new ones from New South Wales, the leopard tree, *Flindersia maculosa* (No. 52798), and the myall, *Acacia pendula* (No. 52800), deserve study by the ranchmen of the extreme Southwest, where fodder grasses are scarce, since in years of unusual drought these trees can tide over the stock until rains come. They have nutrient values of 48.5 and 29, respectively, and will stand periods of prolonged drought.

Vegetables.—Why should we not use the old-fashioned potherb Good King Henry, *Chenopodium bonus-henricus* (No. 52789)? It is extremely hardy and two weeks earlier than asparagus produces shoots that are easily blanched and have a delicious flavor. It is related to our own lamb's-quarters, *C. album*, which is also excellent.

Tomato growers may be interested in Mr. Harrison's giant tomato bush (No. 52334) which in the frostless region of Burringbar, New South Wales, produced in 12 months a plant 16 feet across and 11 feet high that bore 100 dozen fair-sized fruits.

Nut-producing plants.—*Telfairia pedata* (No. 52450), a cucurbit growing like a liana in the tropical forests of East Africa and producing immense fruits which are filled with large flat edible seeds, although brought to the attention of horticulturists in 1824 seems nowhere to have been cultivated. It deserves a thorough trial. There is something alluring in the idea of replacing the scrub oaks of the pinelands of Florida with the deciduous oaks of Siam (Nos. 52440 to 52448) which produce great masses of sweet edible acorns.

Dye and tannin plants.—Mr. Rock's account of the black dye made from a tropical species of persimmon, *Diospyros mollis* (No. 52510), a substance whose color is so prized by the Chinese that they ship into Siam yearly over \$800,000 worth of silk and pay duty on it in order to have it dyed there, should attract the attention of the manufacturers of dyes. Seed of the tree to grow in Porto Rico and Hawaii was secured.