

Among the plant introductions during August, the most interesting and important, perhaps, are two large collections of seed received from Darjeeling, in the Sikkim Himalayas. One of these collections was made under the supervision of Mr. G. H. Cave, Director of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, at the request of Mr. Wilson Popenoe, of this Office, and the other by Mr. L. J. Mackintosh, at the request of Mr. J. F. Rock of Honolulu, traveling as a Collaborator of this Office. Many of the plants are of interest, several are quite new to this country, and one or two perhaps may prove quite worthy of continued cultivation in this country. All plants listed in this bulletin therefore are from Darjeeling, and the descriptions given are from Watt's Dictionary of the Economic Products of India, or Hooker's Flora of British India, unless otherwise specified.

*Acacia catechu.* (Mimosaceae.) 38991. Seeds of the cutch from Darjeeling, India. The various forms of the cutch tree all yield a gum, an astringent extract and a useful timber. The gum is of pale yellow color and often occurs in tears one inch in diameter. It is sweet to the taste, soluble in water, and forms a strong, pale-colored mucilage. Most of the superior qualities of gum arabic, especially those of south India, are very possibly obtained from this species of *Acacia*. The timber has yellowish-white sapwood, with heartwood either dark or light red, and extremely hard. It seasons well, takes a fine polish, and is extremely durable. It is used for all kinds of agricultural implements, wheelwrights' work, etc. In Burma it is used for house posts and very largely as fuel for the steamers of the Irrawaddy flotilla. The fuel of dead cutch or khair is much valued by goldsmiths. In northern India cutch wood is made into charcoal, and is regarded as one of the best woods for that purpose. It has been pronounced good for railway sleepers. A cubic foot of the wood weighs from 50 to 75 pounds according to the variety. The tree is chiefly important as furnishing the astringent catechu, so largely used in tanning. This is extracted from the chips by means of boiling water, the heartwood only being used. This necessitates the complete destruction of the trees, so that the Gujarat method of lopping the larger branches seems more economical and likely to recommend itself for general use.

*Aconitum ferox.* (Ranunculaceae.) 38993. Seeds of monkshood from Darjeeling, India. One of the numerous forms of the so-called "Nepal aconites," so largely used in Indian medicine. Of interest possibly for trial in this country as a producer of aconite, since this group of the genus furnishes a poison of unusual strength.