

which ferry boats glide on some of the swift flowing mountain streams.

"Well, these are a few things I am mentioning now; later on, when sending off all collected material I'll mention more things.

"I am in a hole, however, as regards a competent Chinese interpreter! I do not know yet what I shall do. Perhaps I'll try to get a young missionary to get along with me. This desertion of my interpreter at such an inopportune place and time has upset all of my plans for the present. And life is so fearfully primitive yet here in Kansu, it is one of the most backward provinces of all China. Food in general is very coarse, houses are badly built, conditions at large are primitive to the extreme and a white man wonders why people are willing to exist only, while it would be so easy to live and to live well indeed.

"Here in this city there is a station of the China Inland Mission with several workers; also a Roman Catholic Mission, with one Father, I think; also an English Post master with whom I am acquainted with from Sianfu already, then last but not least, Mr. Farrer, an alpine amateur and his assistant, Wm. Purdom are here."

Darjeeling, India, Mr. L. J. Mackintosh writes Sept. 28, 1914. We have a great number of plants of economic value in these hills and not a few of great medicinal value, some well known in Europe such as Cherritea and Quinine, others again quite unknown. The hill tribes are more successful in combating tropical diseases than some of the qualified doctors. I shall give you one simple example. You know the red *Rhododendron arboreum rufescens*, the hill people use for diarrhea and dysentery. The flowers are gathered and dried in the sun, then stored away for the year. They infuse about ten or twelve petals (dry) in water and take (drink) the first thing in the morning, it being considered the best time. The time however matters but little. I have seen really bad cases, hopelessly neglected or muddled by others cured by this treatment. I could write a whole treatise on the economic value of plants in our district and new to our western readers. Do you think any of these plants could find a field of utility in America? If so I would be most happy to collect seeds of these plants.