

ciated, being of easily decaying properties but being light and non-odoriferous, much used for making tea chests and other boxes.

"Then I noticed the real Oriental persimmon, *Diospyros kaki*, *wild* all over the mountains. The fruits are said to be small, of red color and quite puckery.

"Chestnuts too occur here and there and in so far as I saw a few trees, they seemingly had no bark disease.

"We are having here some sultry, sticky weather, with occasional showers and the air as humid as can be, not very conducive to quick movements, as my hands even stick to the paper I am writing on.

"The markets, however, are very interesting; heaps of fresh lytchees; fresh mangosteens (without any flavor); good yellow mangos; fine golden loquats; ripe plums (*Prunus triflora* and *P. mume*), the last also sold freshly pickled in brine and eaten out of hand with powdered liquorice root sprinkled over it, quite appetizing! Then several varieties of peaches, green crab-apples, the last apricots of the season, while new *Nagis* are just coming in. We also have an abundance of shoots of *Kau ba*, *Zizania latifolia*; last Saturday Mr. Swingle and I had them for lunch at the Astor House, boiled in water and served hot with a cream sauce; they tasted like Jerusalem artichokes, with a bit of young parsnip flavor added; last night I had them sliced, well scalded and served cold with a dressing, as a salad they tasted somewhat like bamboo, like reed-sprouts and like celeriac. This vegetable certainly has a future ahead in America. In the foreign hotels here they call them water bamboo sprouts!

"Mr. MacGregor has shown me over his new parks, which have prospered amazingly, only they have had a very severe winter, the mercury went down to 15° Fahr. in January, 1915, and as a result the camphor trees were totally defoliated; *Chamaerops excelsa* losing many leaves; some oleanders frozen to the ground; *Eucalyptus gunnii*, one of the hardiest of the genus, has been killed outright, except in some very sheltered localities; hardy Japanese lemons suffered badly, but a hardy tangerine tree, 20 feet high and of local origin, escaped unhurt.

"Shanghai as a town has grown largely since I was here last in 1908, but as business is much depressed on account of the war, life seems much duller here than formerly. Still Shanghai seems to be destined to become the New York of China, just like Hangchow is said to develop into the Chicago of this gigantic land."