

"Well, I have a few interesting discoveries to report, firstly there are many specimens of *Castanea mollissima* scattered at the bases and on the lower slopes of the hills around here, and -- these chestnuts are seriously attacked by the bark-fungus, and in my estimation are going to succumb to it these coming years. The chinquapins, however, which are very abundant on the higher and more sterile hill slopes, seem to be immune, at least, I did not see any evidences of damage or even of attacks. This brings another interesting point to my mind. I was told in Nanking that various missionaries at Kuling, the great summer resort in central China for missionaries, were cutting down their chestnuts, as the tops were all dying, due to borers working underneath the bark. (Of course this last cause is the most easily explainable to laymen). But now this is the point: when chestnuts here in eastern central China are only recently being attacked seriously then the disease might have come from some other locality, like from north China possibly, or this *Diaporthe parasitica* might have become, through mutation or whatever else, much more aggressive of late, than in periods gone by. What do specialists say on this question?

"The second of my more important observations are that -- hickories occur wild in the mountains near here. I bought some samples of nuts in town and was assured that the trees producing them grow wild in the Fung huang shan region to the west and southwest from here. I found a large tree of a Pecan-like appearance in a densely wooded valley on the slopes of the Pan shan, a few hours from here to the northeast and within some days I may have found the real hickory-nut-tree, which has not been reported from China up till now. Wilson in his second volume of 'A Naturalist in China', makes special mention of this fact. Chinese here call them hickory-nuts *sa ho to* and *sa kuo* meaning 'sand walnut' and 'sand nut'; why, we have not been able to ascertain as yet. I am sending you, by separate parcel, a small quantity of these hickory nuts. If you see fit, would you kindly ask Professor Sargent's opinion regarding them. I am making arrangements with Dr. Duncan Main here, to send you some fresh nuts this coming autumn.

Another thing I found on a spur of the Pan shan at an elevation of c. a. 1500 ft. a. s. were wild tea-bushes in a dense thicket of *Ilex cornuta*, *Castanea pumila*, dwarf bamboo, *Juniperus sp.*, etc. On this same spur I found wild camphor-trees, wild tallow trees, (*Sapium sebiferum*) lots of wild *Diospyros kaki*; wild *Yang mae* trees (*Myrica rubra*), *Exochorda grandiflora*, *Chionanthus retusa*, *Symplocos sp.*,