

*Tamarix dioica* Roxburgh. (Tamaricaceae.) 41624. Seeds of a tamarisk from Saharanpur, India. Presented by Mr. A. C. Hartless, Superintendent, Government Botanic Gardens. "A small tree. Branches with drooping extremities; ultimate branchlets elongate, patent-fastigiate. India and Burma." (Hooker, Flora of British India, Vol. 1, p. 249.)

*Theobroma cacao* L. (Sterculiaceae.) 41666-41670. Seeds of cacaos from Brazil. Presented by Col. Manoel Couros through Mr. H. M. Curran. Nos. 41666-41667. "Var. *Para*. These seeds are from the largest and most perfect fruits found in a young vigorous plantation on new soil, mountains of Rio Contas. They represent the best type of cacao grown in this region. Rio Contas basin is one of the big cacao regions and produces fine quality cacao beans." No. 41668. "Egg shell variety. A small form of fruit with thinner shell and few seeds. Occurs in all plantations but not selected for planting as the yield is less. From a young vigorous plantation on new soil, mountains of Rio Contas." Nos. 41669-41670. "Var. *Para*. Cacao called *Maranhao*. Probably the same as S.P.I. Nos. 41666 & 41667, though preferred by certain planters. Large perfect fruits selected by Col. Manoel Couros from trees on his plantation were the source of these seeds." (Curran.)

*Wasabia pungens* Matsumura. (Brassicaceae.) 41567. Roots from New York City. Presented by Mr. H. Terao. "Before cooking the graded wasabi is usually beaten on a dresser with the back of a knife so that the root-cells may be mostly broken up, as you have perhaps learned in Japan. It is said that there is no wasabi for sale in New York City yet. Two Japanese restaurants here get 50 roots a year from San Francisco, where the wasabi comes from Japan." (Terao.)

#### NOTES FROM CORRESPONDENTS ABROAD.

Mr. F. J. Wiens China M. B. Mission, writes from Shonghong via Swatow, March 7, 1916:

"I recall my promise from last summer to send to you some of the native water chestnuts which seem to be quite an article of export here.

"I now take pleasure in sending under separate cover some samples and trust that it will not be so cold any more in the states through which they have to go that they will freeze. The natives plant them here in June, (but it will have to be earlier where it is not so warm. This is more a fruit for warm climate) and then they are not put right into the ground but they take sand and plant them in wet sand so that the point sticks out of the sand and then they