

Notes from Correspondents abroad.

Mr. Meyer in a communication from Japan, says: "These last days I have been making inquiries into the peppermint-situation, but on the whole with negative results. You may remember you asked me for peppermint roots for Dr. Stockberger. Well I first saw the American Vice-Consul about the roots, that they sent in 1911, (No. 32167); he did not know, but he sent for the gardener from whom they had obtained them. This man first sent his wife, because it was rainy weather yesterday, but in the afternoon he showed up himself. He said there were three kinds grown in this part of Japan and the kind he obtained for the Consul was the best. He said that to go to the peppermint farms and to come back again would take two days. He did not know varietal names at all and proved to be quite useless for giving further information. I then went to the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade for information, but there I couldn't get anything beyond the intelligence that the peppermint-oil from Hokkaido is considered better than the local product. Then I visited the firm of McKay & Co., a firm exporting mint-oil, several times and met a Japanese who is dealing in mint-oil. This man told me that there is only one variety of mint and that the quality of the oil depends upon the care that is bestowed in the process of getting the oil out of the leaves. The mint is simply called 'Hakka' and he had never heard of varieties. Mint farms exist in the vicinity of Okayama, $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. by train to the west of Kobe. I then saw a specialist in the great firm of Suzuki & Co., wholesale dealers in oils and drugs and this gentlemen told me there is only one variety grown in Japan, but since they have three crops a year and since the product of these crops varies considerably, people might think that there are several kinds of peppermint, but this is not so. Well, I had to give it up. Had I had more time at my disposal I would have visited the farms, but as my boat leaves for China tomorrow morning, I cannot do so. This, however is a nice piece of work to do for a young fellow who wants to train himself into an efficient agricultural explorer. I hope to retire from this work after some years and a young healthy and intelligent fellow ought to continue this work in Asia. One thing I would suggest to Dr. Stockberger, viz.: if there are varieties of peppermint and if these varieties indi-