

Vicia faba (Fabaceae), 45305. **Broad bean.** From China. Collected by Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer for this Department. "(No. 2438a. Ichang, Hupeh, China. March 24, 1917.) A medium large variety of broad bean, much grown as a winter crop on rice lands which have been drained for the cool season. The beans are much eaten, when fresh, like green peas and they form a very tasteful and nutritious dish. After soaking in water over night, the dry beans are often fried in oil, and salt sprinkled over them. They are then eaten as a delicacy, like salted peanuts. Chinese name *Ts'an tou* (*Tchan doh*), meaning 'Silk worm bean', possibly on account of the silky hairs covering the outside and the inside of the pods. To be tested as a winter crop in the southern parts of the Atlantic and Gulf States and on the Pacific coast. As a summer crop in the inter-mountain regions and along the north Pacific coast." (Meyer.)

Vigna sinensis (Fabaceae), 45301. **Cowpea.** From China. Collected by Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer for this Department. "(No. 2434a. Hanchow, China. March 7, 1917.) A black-eyed, white cowpea eaten as a human food; boiled with dry rice generally, but also much used in stews and soups. The young pods are much consumed slightly boiled as a vegetable; they are also dried for winter use and in some localities pickled in brine. Chinese name *Pai chiang tou* (*Pai chiang doh*), meaning 'White precious bean'." (Meyer.)

Notes from Correspondents abroad.

Mr. S. Iida writes from Yokohama, Japan, in a recent letter:

The Plum Blossom (*Prunus mume*), at Tsukigase in the province of Yamato is the most famous and largest orchard in Japan, but I gather that the cultivation has been curtailed in sympathy with the decline of the rouge industry in Kyoto, where there were formerly ten principal factories of the color but a single one survives at present. The burnt kernel of *P. mume* is said to be used in the manufacture. From this it seems that the demand as fruit alone is not sufficient for the orchard.