

A PROMISING HYBRID PEAR
S.P.I. No. 55805.

"The late Dr. Walter Van Fleet, prior to his entering the United States Department of Agriculture in 1909, conducted at his home in Little Silver, New Jersey, extensive work in plant breeding. In 1907 he inaugurated some work in the breeding of pears, the main object being to secure, if practicable, pears more resistant to fire blight than those commonly grown. When Doctor Van Fleet took up his work in the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction in 1909, he brought with him from his home in New Jersey many young plants, the result of his breeding work. Most of these were sent to the Garden at Chico, California, among them a number of cross-bred seedling pears. From time to time these pears have come into fruit and their characters have been noted. The pear here described is one of the most promising so far developed as a result of Dr. Van Fleet's work. The two original trees have been growing for nearly ten years at Chico. They are strong, fast growers, regular and prolific bearers, and have never shown any evidence of fire blight. Following is a detailed description of the pear:

S. P. I. 55805. *Pyrus serotina* x *communis*,

"Grown at the Plant Introduction Garden, Chico, California, under P. I. G. No. 6583. A hybrid pear raised by the late Dr. Walter Van Fleet at Little Silver, New Jersey, and presented to the Plant Introduction Garden in 1909. Promising as a blight-resistant cooking and preserving pear for sections where fire blight is destructive.

"Origin. Little Silver, N. J. A hybrid probably between Golden Russet, an oriental pear, and one or more of the *P. communis* types. Medium to large, roundish, obovate; skin golden, covered with numerous small, round dots; stalk long, stout; cavity around stalk quite shallow or none at all; basin at the calyx end more or less abrupt, deep, russet; flesh whitish, sweet, slightly subacid, granular; core medium; seeds few, large; not gritty.

"A handsome golden colored pear which