

alpine meadows, often at 13,000 feet in fir forests, and at times develops into a small tree. The berries are palatable but nothing to brag about. It may be a good stock plant or an ornamental. There is also a wild plum from the limestone range opposite the snow range on the other side of the Likiang Valley; it grows at an altitude of 11,000 to 12,000 feet. This limestone range is exceedingly dry and hot from April to July, then the rains commence but the water is absorbed as if the ground were a sponge. Then later come ice, frost, and snow, with a dry cold wind. This plum is a handsome little tree, 20 feet in height, with yellow (orange-yellow) globose plums about an inch in diameter; the flesh is very firm, acid to somewhat sweet when fully ripe. It will be good as a stock plant in semiarid alkaline regions. I found only two trees, but animals had already devoured much of the fruit, and I collected all that were left.

I am sending *Helwingia rusciflora* merely because it is one of the most curious plants I ever saw. It is a shrub 15 feet in height (I have not seen it in flower) and has ovate elliptical leaves, glossy with prominent midribs, and bears its fruits on the upper surface in the very center of the leaf on a pedicel about 2 mm. long. The fruits are purple and contrast well against the bright-green foliage.

I am also sending seeds of two Primulas. One is exceedingly handsome (*P. vinciflora*), with flowers of a deep indigo-blue,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. The other is *P. sino-purpurea*, with large umbels of purple flowers. It is a very robust plant often 3 feet high, with golden tomentum on the under surface of the leaves. I photographed it when in flower. These primulas like peaty, boggy meadows, at an altitude of 14,000 feet, with plenty of tannic acid in the soil water. In fact, the seeds do not readily germinate; they are covered with a film which is dissolved either by hot water or tannic acid. Only when so treated will the percentage of germination be good. Next several varieties of a rose (*Rosa* sp.). There are here at least 30 varieties of this rose. They are all exceedingly handsome, some white, others cream colored, pink mauve to purplish, and all of course single. They are all shrubs. Some varieties are found as high as 15,000 to 15,500 feet and as low as 10,000 feet. The seeds I am sending came from an altitude of 12,000 feet. There are many other roses here, and I shall send you a little later seeds of all of them, if possible. Day before yesterday I crossed a limestone range 12,000 feet in height and descended into a lovely meadow about 2 miles long by half a mile broad, surrounded by mountains. In the meadow are many sink holes filled with water; hence the name "Chin hai tze," or "nine seas." There I discovered a wild pear, at 11,000 feet altitude growing up to its branches in water; perfectly healthy, spineless, and loaded with small pealike fruits (all seed). Unfortunately the fruits were not ripe, but I am going to get them later. Another species of wild pear I found on the Lashipa plain,