

tributed between the years 1914 and 1916, only 1,019 are reported alive. Drought, frost, fires, and lack of adaptability to climate are set down as the chief causes of death. In the northeastern sections of the United States blight is said to have caused the death of many trees, although numbers of reports show the trees have resisted blight where the American chestnut succumbed. This is particularly true of the experimental planting made at Bell, Md., by the late Dr. Walter Van Fleet of the Office of Horticultural Investigations. That planting is now ten years old and the trees have been fruiting for the past five or six years. The orchard originally contained over 1400 seedlings, about 50 per cent being hybrids made by Dr. Van Fleet for the purpose of securing blight-resistant types. The hybrids were chiefly the results of crosses between our American chinquapin and two Asiatic species, *Castanea crenata* and *Castanea mollissima*, imported by this Office. Straight seedlings of both the last named species have been grown in the orchard. Of all the chestnuts tested at Bell, the Chinese hairy chestnut seems to be the most promising so far as ability to resist blight, vigor, size, quantity and quality of nuts produced are concerned.

The question arises as to whether the Chinese hairy chestnut may be regarded as a promising introduction for extensive forest planting to take the place of our own vanishing species in furnishing wood and bark for tannin material. That it will ever be able to do this is very doubtful. As a possible source of supplying nuts very closely resembling our own sweet and highly flavored native product, the Chinese form seems well worthy of study and further development. The tree lends itself readily to orchard culture and begins to bear when five or six years old. Trees for orchard culture may be planted as close as 12 by 12 feet or 14 by 14 feet. Such trees should not be pruned. Experience has shown that cutting the lower branches from the trunk invites blight infection. The trees do best when left to grow in bush form. Trees planted in this way must have good culture, the same as apple, peach or pear trees. They cannot be left to care for themselves with much hope of success. This fact may account in part at least for the heavy mortality in the trees distributed.

It would seem inadvisable under the present state of our knowledge regarding the Chinese hairy chestnut to undertake planting it on an extensive scale with a view to utilizing wood and bark for tannin purposes. It is true that this chestnut has a number of qualities to recommend it. In the first place it is a true species, and seedlings are readily grown. There is a large extent of territory in China where the tree grows from which seeds may be obtained at reasonable cost. The chief difficulty, however, is in connection with the harvesting and transportation of the seeds. Chestnuts lose their vitality quickly after harvesting and much care is required in hand-