

*Hydnocarpus castanea*, from the Martaban Hills, in lower Burma.

"The seeds, packed in charcoal for the long journey, arrived in good condition, and were carefully raised in germinating flats, and then transplanted into individual pots and held for a year, when they were ready to be set out. The work of planting was done by the Board of Agriculture and Forestry with the cooperation of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association.

"On the advice of Mr. Rock, the well-drained foothills in the Waiahole Forest Reserve, on the windward side of the island of Oahu, over the mountain range from Honolulu, were selected as the site for the plantation of these trees, which in about eight years, it is hoped, will begin to bear the round fruit packed with seeds from which this much-desired oil is obtained.

"The properties of chaulmoogra oil for the treatment of leprosy have been recognized from early Asiatic history, and particularly in India it has been used as a palliative. Taken by way of the mouth, its administration was frequently attended by amelioration of the disease, although this was nauseating and offensive to the stomach, and at best the action was slow. More became known about chaulmoogra oil in 1904, when Dr. F. B. Power, of the Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, determined the true origin and nature of the oil and succeeded in separating the physiologically active acids.

"In Hawaii, where the injection of chaulmoogra oil was tried at the Kalihi Leprosy Hospital by officers of the United States Public Health Service, the results led them to believe that a greater therapeutic value could be obtained from the oil if the active agent or agents were isolated and the liquids made more suitable for intra-muscular or intravenous injections.

"By a happy combination with the Territorial Board of Health and the United States Public Health Service, an excellent opportunity was afforded for the use of these derivatives in the Kalihi Hospital, near Honolulu, where the patients were under constant observation and control. Cases which improve to the point where the clinical signs have disappeared and the bacillus can no longer be demonstrated are recommended for parole. There is no way of demonstrating that any person has been absolutely cured of leprosy, but the patients who are paroled are believed to be free from the disease. In the great majority of cases which become bacteriologically negative there has been no reappearance of the disease. During a period of fourteen months ended March 15, 1924, 50 per cent of the leprosy patients at the Kalihi Hospital have recovered as a result of this specialized treatment and have been paroled. During the past five years over 260 patients have been discharged as cured. Only forty-five of these have returned on account of a recurrence of the disease.

"The oil now used for these derivatives is obtained from India,