

who has one of the few bearing trees in Cuba, has contributed this lot of seeds, which will be used to supply plants for further experiments in southern Florida." (Wilson Popenoe.)

MAGNOLIA CAMPBELLII (Magnoliaceae), 59372. From Orleans, Loiret, France. Presented by Leon Chenault.

Several years ago, Agricultural Explorer J. F. Rock called our attention to an unusually handsome magnolia, photographs of which were obtained by him at Darjiling. This was *M. campbellii*, native to the Himalayas, where it ascends to altitudes of 8,000 feet. Several efforts were made to introduce this species into the United States by means of seeds, but failure attended all of them. The seeds retain their viability a short time only, and are difficult to ship long distances.

Having learned recently that this tree is cultivated in southern France, we applied to our friend M. Leon Chenault for assistance in effecting its introduction into the United States. In response he has sent two seedlings of the red-flowered form, which have reached Washington in good condition. As soon as these have been established, we shall attempt to propagate them so as to distribute plants to those parts of the country where they seem likely to thrive.

Magnolia campbellii is reputed one of the finest ornamental trees of its genus. Its enormous flowers, 10 to 14 inches broad, vary from white to light purple, according to the variety. The tree becomes 80 feet high in its native home, and is deciduous. It has dark-colored bark and large, elliptical, dark-green leaves.

MUSA PARADISIACA SAPIENTUM (Musaceae), 59377. **Banana.** From Santa Marta, Colombia. Presented by V. M. Cutter, United Fruit Co., Boston, Mass.

"Gros Michel." More than nine-tenths of the bananas consumed in the United States are of this variety. It is cultivated in the West Indies, and in many places on the mainland of tropical America, whence steamers loaded with its fruit sail weekly for New York and New Orleans.

"In flavor, Gros Michel is surpassed by many bananas. It has recently shown another defect, also; -susceptibility to the Panama disease, a rot caused by *Fusarium cubense*. It was long ago found to have excellent shipping qualities, and probably for this reason more than any other, it became the dominant variety in North American markets. Now that it is firmly established, efforts to replace it with other sorts, some of which would be easier to cultivate because resistant to Panama disease, seem barren of results.

"During the last few years, considerable attention has been devoted to banana culture in southern Florida. The Cavendish or Chinese dwarf variety has been planted commercially on a small scale, and good returns have been reported. Several others, including the Lady Finger, have been cultivated in that state for many years, but a recent canvass failed to bring to light a single plant of Gros Michel. In view of the prominence which this sort attained in the banana trade more than a quarter of a century ago, it seems nothing short of astonishing that it should not have become established in Florida, where interest in tropical fruits has long been keen.