

SAPINDUS SAPONARIA. (Sapindaceae.) 27950. From Veracruz, Mexico. Presented by Hon. Wm. W. Canada, American Consul. "The berry-like fruit grows in clusters like the grape, and a tree will have at one time as many as one hundred of these clusters. They abound in the vicinity of Veracruz, where the fruit is known by the name of jaboncillo. The remarkable saponaceous properties of the fruit would warrant one in believing that it may have commercial value. The pulp and shell are the parts that appear to contain the soapy properties. When rubbed upon a wet hand a good, cleansing lather is immediately formed, one that to all appearances has been produced by ordinary soap." (Canada.) For distribution later.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

CHINA, Shanghai. Mr. D. MacGregor, June 21. Promises to send plants of the female form of *Actinidia chinensis* in the autumn.

CHINA, Shanghai. A son of the well known botanist, Prof. Marshall Ward, is in Shanghai. He took an agricultural course at Christ Church, Cambridge, and afterwards went to China. He has explored as far as the Tibetan frontier with the expedition fitted out by the Duke of Bedford and has done excellent work. He wants to engage in further exploration work and Prof. Isaac Bayley Balfour of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, recommends him as a scientific explorer.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Santo Domingo. Mr. Horace G. Knowles, July 21. Sends a report of his agricultural experiments there. He cleared out a large tract of jungle back of the Legation and planted it in bananas, grape fruit, pine-apples, various kinds of vegetables, corn and alfalfa. They are all in splendid condition. The people there know almost nothing about cultivating the ground, or about the importance of using good seed. He wants to show them by his experiments what can be done by a modern system of farm and garden cultivation. Many people have already become interested, and he intends to try to interest the Ministers of the different countries and get them to establish experiment stations and seed agencies in different parts of the Island. The report will be sent to any one interested.

GERMANY, Colmar, Alsace. Mr. Eugene Ackermann, July 14. Sends a copy of his book on Madeira, recently published, entitled "L'île de Madere Considerée au Point de vue Scientifique et Economique."