

BRAZIL, Theophilo Ottoni. Mr. Fred Birch writes December 25 that he has learned of a new variety of aracá (*Psidium araca*) of a long pear shape, which he will send when ripe if he remains in that locality.

BURMA, Rangoon. Mr. George Forrest, who has just finished a collecting trip in western China, writes January 25 that he is returning to Scotland, having completed his work in that region for the present at least.

CHINA, Shanghai. From here Mr. F. Kingdon Ward writes January 11 that he has been asked by an English firm to collect alpinas in the mountains of Western Yunnan, China, and has accepted for at least a year.

CHINESE TURKESTAN, Kashgar. The latest information from Mr. Frank N. Meyer is that after shipping the winter's collections of seeds and cuttings, amounting to over half a ton, he has left for Kuldscha by the Mussart Pass across the Tian-Schan Mountains, proceeding from there to Chuguchak, in Chinese Turkestan, where he expects to arrive April 15. At that place he will be but eight days journey from Omsk on the Trans-Siberian railway. His further plans are not yet determined. From Kuldscha he may get into the Issyk-kul region, or from Chuguchak he may go on into the Altai Mountains and Dzungaria.

CHINA, Szechuan, Yachow. Mr. Edgar T. Shields writes Jan. 1 that the vines which he secured for us this last summer in the mountains have nearly all perished from delay in transportation to Yachow. He will try again next year. "I have asked one of my friends to buy for me if possible some of the bitter orange trees. They are very hard to grow and slow; the Chinese have most ingeniously used the following scheme to procure new trees. They split a limb part way, beginning from the trunk, and going toward the tip of the limb, bind the end of the limb up in a bundle of earth. Thus it receives sap from the parent tree while it is becoming rooted in the earth. After it is thoroughly rooted it is completely severed and transplanted." (Shields.) (This is of course merely a method of layering where the bundle of earth takes the place of the natural soil, and could only be used in a very moist climate such as Yachow has.)

COCHIN CHINA, Saigon. M. Lan, Local director of Agricultural and Commercial services, writes January 17 that they are at present unable to supply seed of *Amygdalus Cochinchinensis*, the tropical sweet almond, but will try to get them for us.

HAWAII, Honolulu. From Yokohama, Mr. C. V. Piper, agrostologist in charge of Forage Crop Investigations, now studying forage crop conditions in the Philippines for the War Department, writes January 17, "A particularly interesting thing is the way our American mesquite thrives at Honolulu. It was introduced many years