

PHILIPPINES. Manila. Mr. O. W. Barrett, writes April 5 1913: "Mr. Wester is exceedingly busy at Lamac Experiment Station in building up a very large and interesting collection of the world's best citrus plants. We are continually finding new and more or less peculiar native varieties, many of which appear to be natural hybrids, some kinds carrying two, three, and perhaps four species in their 'blood'. Mr. Wester has written the manuscript of a Citrus bulletin intended for arousing the interest of the Philippine planter in this industry which we hope will within a few years develop into one of considerable importance. I am leaving to-day for a brief visit to Mindanao. It is quite possible that I may be able to procure some interesting material for you on this trip. You will be interested to know that a new fruit from southern Palawan, discovered last year, bids fair to put the mangosteen itself 'in the shade'. None of us in this Division have seen the fruit itself, but although it is said to be a vine the leaf much resembles that of the Durian: the fruit itself is said to be on the same style as the mangosteen but is very much larger, contains more edible pulp, and the flavor is, according to report, about ten times better than that of the mangosteen. We have just one live plant but we hope to get a considerable number of the fruits in June. We have several thrifty branches of the Siamese seedless pomelo and as soon as budwood is available we shall take great pleasure in sending same to you. Mr. Boyle is much interested in the peculiar hairiness of the young shoots of this peculiar variety; the pubescence disappears after a few months but its presence is in my opinion a very distinctive point. We are still waiting for photographs and further details as to the plantation from which we received our budwood. You will be interested to know that we sent yesterday, a collector to Portuguese Timor,--at least we have first claim on all the economic material he gets there. It is claimed there are several very distinct citrus types in the East Indies. Another collector going through the interior of New Guinea promises us 'first choice'. Our banana collection now contains well over 100 'named sorts', some of which, of course, are undoubtedly duplicates. We have succeeded fairly well in raising a number of interesting African and Indian sorts from seeds. Mr. E. D. Merrill, Botanist of the Bureau of Science, promises to try to straighten out the taxonomy of *Musa* if we will furnish him fresh material; it seems that the recent monograph of *Musa* is a failure. We are continually finding wild bananas here in the hinterland of Luzon, strange *Musa* spp. some of which appear to be undescribed."