

height, 40 to 60 feet. (Maiden, Useful native plants of Australia, p. 599.) Introduced as a possible stock for less hardy anacardiaceous fruit-bearing trees. For distribution later.

*Polakowskia tacaco*. (Cucurbitaceae.) 36592. Seeds from San Jose, Costa Rica. Presented by Mr. Carlos Wercklé, Department of Agriculture. "A cucurbitaceous plant, the fruit of which is used as a green vegetable. It is a near relative to the chayote, but the fruit is smaller, fusiform, set with stiff spines at the base and of quite a distinct taste. It is one of the primitive foods of the native Indians of Costa Rica, where it grows wild in fresh, shady places of the temperate region, and its use as a vegetable has been readily adopted by the Spanish Costa Ricans. Nowadays the plant is at least semicultivated on the central plateau. To grow it, a whole mature fruit is set in a rich loose leaf mold with the spiny end up and almost showing at the surface. The vines spread on the ground or on low bushes or supports. The fruits, which are about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, hang from short peduncles and are picked when still green. After taking away the basal spines they are boiled in water, either whole or cut into small pieces, or pickled, or made into preserves. They are also a favorite addition to the native vegetable soups." (H. Pittier.) For distribution later.

*Solanum quitoense*. (Solanaceae.) 36597. Seeds of the lulo from Santander-Quilichao, Colombia. Presented by Mr. D. G. Prado. "A fruit resembling a tomato. The fruit when ripe is yellow, has a sour pleasant taste and is used to make cooling drinks. It lasts eight or ten days after cut and in the States it may be cultivated with profit to supply the soda fountains with a fruit to make flavoring extracts. I believe it can be grown in Florida, California and Texas." (Prado.) For distribution later.

#### NOTES FROM CORRESPONDENTS ABROAD.

Mr. F. W. Popenoe writes from Bahia, Brazil, December 5th, 1913. "The oldest inhabitant doesn't recall any such weather in December as we are having at the present time; we are told that it is very unusual, etc., but the fact remains that it is *wet*, and I think if we stay here much longer we will all grow web-footed. We have had a week of solid rain, rain every day and a good part of every day; my leather suitcase has turned into a mushroom patch, and my panama hat has grown whiskers. We simply can't get our clothes dry, and have given up trying to do so until the sun shows its face again, if it ever has the courage to do so.