35891. CASTANEA MOLLISSIMA Blume. **Chestnut.**

From San Tun Ying, China. Collected by Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer for the Department of Agriculture. Received July 21, 1913.

"(No. 1867a. San Tun Ying, China. May 30, 1913.) *Lee tze.* A good quality of seeds of a Chinese chestnut coming from the best chestnut district of North China. This North China chestnut has no value as a timber tree, being of a low-branching open-headed growth, while the trees do not grow tall, specimens over 40 feet in height being rare. It seems, however, much more resistant to the bark fungus disease than the American chestnut, and it might be utilized in certain hybridization experiments in trying to combine the good qualities of both the American and the Chinese parents into one tree. This chestnut loves a well-drained, decomposed granite soil, preferably at the foot of hills or of mountains; it also seems quite averse to strong winds and therefore thrives best in well-sheltered valleys. In its native localities it is but little cultivated, the peasants being contented to plant a few trees here and there along the bases of hills and on sloping fields, and the trees in general look much thriftier when close to rocks and bowlders than when seen on fairly level fields. From the nature of the tree and the climate where it grows one might conclude that sheltered valleys in the foothill sections of the Rocky Mountain region will probably suit this chestnut better than any other section in the United States, and some serious attempts should be made to establish it in these regions as a hardy nut-bearing tree. The Chinese roast these nuts in wintertime in large open iron pans in a mixture of sand with some coarse sugar or molasses in it. This treatment gives the chestnuts a glossy, appetizing appearance." (*Meyer.*)

For illustrations of this chestnut tree as found growing in China, see Plates II and III.

35892. CASTILLA NICOYENSIS O. F. Cook.

Central American rubber tree.

From San Jose, Costa Rica. Presented by Mr. Carlos Wercklé, Department of Agriculture. Received July 19, 1913.

"A medium-sized tree, 10 to 20 meters high. Limbs divaricate, ascending, or horizontal. Floriferous twigs covered with a dense coating of rather long, brownish hairs, longitudinally striate when dry and filled with a thick, white pith. Leaves of medium size, deciduous. Petioles 1 to 2 cm. long, thick and densely hairy. Leaf blades 20 to 46 cm. long, 10 to 20 cm. broad, more or less cordate-emarginate at base, acuminate at tip, covered on the upper surface with sparse hair, this thicker on the midrib and primary veins, paler and hairy, especially on the veins, beneath. Nervation regular, prominent beneath. Margin distinctly dentate-sinuate, with tufts of hair on the teeth. The young leaves are dark green and sparsely hairy above, densely hairy tomentose beneath; the indentation of the margin is scarcely noticeable, and the base is often only rounded or scarcely emarginate. So far *Castilla nicoyensis* is reported from the peninsula of Nicoya only, but the probability is that it will be found all along the coast of the Pacific, from Nicaragua to Panama. It is a good rubber producer, the milk being particularly abundant toward the end of the dry season, and to this fact is due its almost complete extermination in the western forests of Costa Rica." (*Pittier, Treatment of the genus Castilla, Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb., vol. 13, pp. 275–277, 1910.*)

35893. ANACOLOSA LUZONIENSIS Merrill. **Galo.**

From Manila, Philippine Islands. Presented by Mr. O. W. Barrett, chief, Division of Horticulture, Bureau of Agriculture. Received July 19, 1913.

"Seeds of a newly discovered fruit. The seed contains a very high grade starchy kernel, which may be eaten raw or roasted, and which is at certain seasons a very important article of diet among the Filipinos. When thoroughly ripe the pulp surrounding the shell is also edible and is a very delicious thing. Galo fruit occurs only in the hilly interior of Cavite Province." (*Barrett.*)