50288 to 50306—Continued.

50304. RUBUS VEITCHII Rolfe. Rosaceæ.

One of the handsomest of all the Chinese brambles. The plants grow to a height of 6 to 7 feet, have blue-white stems and attractive, much-divided fernlike foliage. At first erect, the stems are gracefully drooping with age. Both stems and petioles are very spiny. The pinnate leaves are dark green above and white beneath. The purple flowers are borne in small terminal panicles; the blue-black fruits are of moderate size. (Adapted from *Gardeners' Chronicle, third series, vol. 51, p. 148.*)

50305. RUBUS XANTHOCARPUS Bur. and Franch. Rosaceæ.

A Chinese trailing plant with large, ovate, bright-yellow fruits which are fragrant and palatable.

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 24155.

50306. STAPHYLEA PINNATA L. Staphyleaceæ.

A treelike shrub, widely distributed throughout Europe to western Asia, with deciduous leaves and terminal clusters of small flowers and much-inflated membranaceous podlike fruits. (Adapted from *Gardening Illustrated, vol. 39, p. 476.*)

50307. SOLANUM TUBEROSUM L. Solanaceæ. **Potato.**

From Teteko, New Zealand. Tubers presented by Charles G. Hallett. Received May 11, 1920.

"Tubers of a peculiar potato that grows in this district. I was given one little tuber by a Government overseer of rabbiters who had taken some tubers from the spring in which they grow and had grown them in his garden for a year or so. He assured me that frost does not affect the plants when growing in the spring. The tubers I am forwarding you grew in my garden from the one I received from the rabbiter, so they have been out of the water for two or three generations." (*Hallett.*)

"On the northern side of the Rangitaiki River, in the Bay of Plenty district, opposite the old Maori settlement called Waiohau, where a splendid spring of fresh water issues from the base of a hill and flows between banks heavily fringed with water cress to the near-by river, a remarkable instance of a plant forsaking its normal environment may be observed. There water cress and potato plants flourish together, and tubers are found among the cress roots from 12 to 18 inches under water. Some of the tubers are almost in midstream, others may be found snuggled into the bank fiber, and the foliage of cress and potato mingle on the water surface. It may be that the plants are dependent for their growth upon the earthy particles held by the cress roots and also that there is some fertilizing quality in the water which drains from the great volcanic area. The potatoes when cooked are not all mealy, but waxy. They grow to a fair size and are fit for eating as early as August.

"I forwarded some of the tubers for testing at the Moumahaki Experimental Farm last season. The manager's report on the trial is as follows:

"'Some of the water-potato tubers were planted on August 31, 1916, in the potato-variety trials, having the same treatment, soil, and manured as the 66 other varieties planted on the same date. The potato in question came away vigorously and is distinct in foliage, with a large blue flower, bearing seed apples naturally. The crop was lifted on February 6, 1917, and was free from disease. The yield was as follows: Marketable tubers (table and seed), at the rate of 11 tons per acre; pig potatoes, 1.87 tons; total 12.87 tons. The cooking test made on February 6, by boiling, showed that the potatoes kept their color 24 hours, but they could not be classed as good cookers. The starch content is believed to be high. About the same date one root was lifted, and the tubers were put into running stream water. In less than a month the tubers had rotted.'