

it from that made from ordinary starch by the fact that it keeps its clearness and shape much better no matter how much it is boiled. It also has a better flavor and good keeping qualities. Perhaps it might be an addition to the laundry starches of America as I fancy it would take a much better gloss as it is harder than ordinary starch and would not need so much paraffin added to make a gloss. I doubt if the American palate would care for the vermicelli, as it is clear like glass and the long strings are most terribly slippery to eat, worse than the round Italian spaghetti." (Kin.) For distribution later.

*Vigna sinensis.* (Fabaceae.) 37104-110. Seeds of cowpeas from Zaria, Northern Nigeria. Presented by Mr. K. T. Rae, Department of Agriculture. Seven varieties of cowpeas introduced for the work of the Office of Forage Crop Investigations in bringing together the principal varieties of cowpeas from all parts of Africa. For distribution later.

*Zea mays.* (Poaceae.) 37219. Seeds of corn from Puerto Bertoni, Paraguay. Presented by Dr. Moises S. Bertoni. "Seeds of a new variety of Early Hard Maize, *communis minor*. This is a new variety which we believe will be of great interest in those countries in which the early European maizes give good results with difficulty. It is a new variety which we have obtained in this Agromomic Station by hybridization and selection of various species of hard and soft maizes of different degrees of earliness. It is almost as early a ripener as the variety Early Soft Maize, which serves as the base, and almost as hard and good as the Hard Canary Maize with which it was first crossed. It is notably hardy and drought resistant. The plant is small and of good production." (Bertoni.) For distribution later.

#### NOTES FROM CORRESPONDENTS ABROAD.

Mr. Frank N. Meyer writes from Tai an fu, Shantung, China, March 29, 1914. "Yesterday I returned from a hurried trip to Feitcheng, bringing back with me eight grafted trees of the famous Fei peach and herewith I am sending you via the American Consul-General at Shanghai, one of these grafted trees and also a bundle of scions. Would you kindly have them given the best of care. I have also sent to Chico a similar shipment, through the American Consul-General at Shanghai, and still have on hand the other six trees which I will send from Tientsin by freight to Chico, together with another lot of bulky stuff. Then also I am sending you, through the same channel a package