

26499 and 26500.

From Kavali, Nellore district, India. Presented by Rev. E. Bullard. Received January 10, 1910.

Seeds of the following; notes by Rev. E. Bullard:

26499. ERYTHRINA INDICA Lam.

"A useful hedge tree used commonly here around betel-leaf gardens. It is leguminous, does not have very spreading limbs, grows rapidly in almost any soil, and attains a height of 30 or 40 feet. It can be transplanted and propagated by cuttings of any size; these require watering for a time until well rooted. It is planted close together as a hedge, a foot or less apart, at first, and the spaces between are filled in with wild sugar cane. The leaf of the *Badidi* is excellent fodder for cattle, sheep, and goats—probably for any animals. The wood is also used in making some ordinary implements. By being cut low it forms an excellent hedge for keeping out animals. The Telugu name is *Badidi* or *Badishe*."

Distribution.—Throughout India and the Polynesian Islands; often cultivated.

26500. MELIA AZEDARACH L.

"A tree called *Turaka vyapa* in Telugu, or a variety of the margosa; it is much inferior, however, to the usual margosa, though useful as a quick-growing tree. Its seed contains an oil used for medicinal purposes."

26501. RHEUM NOBILE Hook. f. and Thoms.

From Sikkim, E. Himalaya, India. Presented by Capt. A. T. Gage, superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur, near Calcutta, India. Received January 10, 1910.

"The individual plants of *Rheum nobile* are upward of a yard high, and form conical towers of the most delicate, straw-colored, shining, semitransparent, concave, imbricating bracts, the upper of which have pink edges, the large bright, glossy, shining, green radical leaves, with red petioles and nerves, forming a broad base to the whole. On turning up the bracts, the beautiful membranous, fragile, pink stipules are seen, like red silver-paper, and within these, again, the short-branched panicles of insignificant green flowers.—The stems of this plant (called '*Chuka*' by the inhabitants) are pleasantly acid, and much eaten.—The seeds should be planted in peat soil and rockwork, and kept very cool and damp." (J. D. Hooker. *Illustrations of Himalayan Plants*, 1855, pl. 19.)

Distribution.—The alpine slopes of the Himalaya Mountains, at an elevation of 13,000 to 15,000 feet, in the Province of Sikkim, northeastern India.

26502 to 26504.

From Chinese Turkestan. Presented by Mr. E. Cotes, Simla, India. Received November 17, 1909.

Seeds of the following:

26502. PRUNUS ARMENIACA L. Apricot.

26503. AMYGDALUS PERSICA L. Peach.

26504. CITRULLUS VULGARIS Schrad. Watermelon.

26505 and 26506. SESAMUM ORIENTALE L. Sesame.

From China. Presented by Rev. J. M. W. Farnham, Shanghai, China. Received January 5, 1910.

Seeds of the following:

26505. Black seeded.

26506. White seeded.