

INVENTORY.

39682 to 39690.

From Sibpur, near Calcutta, India. Presented by Mr. C. C. Calder, Royal Botanic Garden. Received January 11, 1915.

"Collected on the eastern Himalayas." (Calder.)

39682. CREPIS JAPONICA (L.) Benth. Cichoriaceæ.

A common eastern Asiatic herb.

39683. POGOSTEMON FRATERNUS Miquel. Menthaceæ.

Distribution.—An herbaceous perennial related to patchouli and belonging to the mint family, found at an altitude of 3,000 to 5,000 feet in the Sikkim Himalayas in India and in Java.

39684. BLUMEA MYRIOCEPHALA DC. Asteraceæ.

Distribution.—A composite shrub with leaves 6 to 10 inches long and small heads of flowers in a pyramidal panicle; found in the Sikkim Himalayas in India.

39685. MARSDENIA TENACISSIMA (Roxb.) Wight and Arnott. Asclepiadaceæ.

A climbing plant distributed throughout the lower Himalayas, ascending to 5,000 feet, from Kumaon to Assam and Burma. The plant is fond of dry, barren localities, twining on the bushes and small trees. The bark of the stems yields a large quantity of beautiful fine silky fiber, which is extracted by cutting the stems into sections and then scraping them clean with the finger nails or with a stick. The mountaineers of Rajmahal make their bowstrings from this fiber, because of its strength and durability. In Dr. Roxburgh's tests of twine made from this fiber, he found that in the dry and wet states it bore a strain of 248 and 343 pounds, when hemp in the same state bore 158 and 190 pounds. More recent tests, however, place it below hemp in strength, but above it in elasticity. The fiber is much used in making fishing nets, and is not liable to injury by submersion in water. One of the chief characteristics of this fiber is its elasticity, and it is considered to be the second best fiber in India. This species, though producing a good fiber, is not in general cultivation, being a climber; difficulties exist with which the Indian cultivator has not yet attempted to deal. A milky juice exudes from the cuts on the stems which thickens into an elastic substance, which acts in the same way as India rubber in removing black-lead marks. (Adapted from Watt, *Dictionary of the Economic Products of India*, and C. R. Dodge, *Useful Fiber Plants of the World*.)

39686. CARYOPTERIS PANICULATA C. B. Clarke. Verbenaceæ.

"A spreading shrub, from Upper Burma; branches terete, slender, pubescent. Leaves mostly obtuse or rounded at the base. Panicles axillary, subsessile one-half to 2½ inches, distinctly paniced, rachis dis-