

## 40776 to 40782.

From Nice, France. Presented by Dr. A. Robertson Proschowsky. Received May 15, 1915. Quoted notes by Dr. Proschowsky, except as otherwise indicated.

**40776.** ALBIZZIA MOLUCCANA Miq. Mimosaceæ.

For previous introduction and description, see S. P. I. No. 25783.

**40777.** ALPINIA NUTANS (L.) Roscoe. Zinziberaceæ. **Shell flower.**

"A magnificent ornamental plant, quite hardy here."

"Striking plant, reaching 10 to 12 feet, with long lanceolate, glabrous, long-veined leaves; flowers orchidlike, yellow with pink, sweet scented, in a long drooping terminal spikelike raceme. Fine for foliage masses and an old favorite. Said to grow 20 feet high in southern California in rich soil with plenty of water and to bloom continuously." (*Bailey, Cyclopedia of Horticulture, vol, 1, p. 265.*)

**40778.** AMERIMNON SISSOO (Roxb.) Kuntze. Fabaceæ.

(*Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb.)

"A deciduous tree of the sub-Himalayan tracts from the Indus to Assam, ascending to 3,000 feet, but probably nowhere in India, strictly speaking, indigenous. Gamble remarks that it is often, however, gregarious on the banks of sandy, stony, torrential rivers. On higher lands it may grow and grow well, though not gregariously unless planted. Cultivated and often self-sown on the plains of India. But even when the trees are growing close together the shade given is light; hence sissu is an important shade tree with tea planters of Dehra Dun. The seed on germinating at once makes a great length of root compared to its growth above ground, a circumstance that greatly minimizes the chance of its being swept away when spontaneous germination takes place within the sandy and stony beds of rivers. Sissu coppices well and reproduces itself freely from suckers. Artificially it is best grown from seed deposited in suitable positions, because transplantation is sometimes difficult and the young trees have to be protected till fairly established. It grows most luxuriantly on low-lying sandy tracts and has been successfully raised on irrigated lands. But it is reputed that the timber of trees raised under irrigation is of poor quality and subject to serious damage by fungi. When young the growth of sissu is very quick; it is said to attain a 2½-foot girth in 12 years, but as it gets older its growth gets slower. The full height of a tree is about 60 feet or so, and in girth it is rarely more than 6 feet. It is very successfully grown in Sind, and is said to be the best hardwood of the Punjab.

"The wood is very durable, seasons well, and does not warp or split. It is highly esteemed for all purposes where strength and elasticity are required, as, for example, agricultural implements, wheelwrights' work, frames of carriages, boat building, etc. At one time it was extensively employed for gun carriages, but owing to the limited supply of the timber it is now very little used for that purpose. It is one of the finest timbers in India for furniture and wood carving, and is in regular demand all over the north of India. In Upper India the shisham wood (*Dalbergia sissoo*) replaces very largely the rosewood (*D. latifolia*) of western and southern India. It attains its position of greatest importance in the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, and the Punjab, being replaced on the north by deodar and to the south by sal and rosewood. The wood