

44676. ILEX PARAGUARIENSIS St. Hil. Aquifoliaceæ. Yerba maté.

From Oran, Salta, Argentina. Presented by Mr. S. W. Damon. Received June 30, 1917.

"Var. *alba de Llamas*. For planting these seeds, deep, porous, well-sifted earth should be prepared. The surface of the soil should be perfectly level. Sow in lines fairly well spaced, covering with half an inch of finely powdered earth containing much humus. Keep the planting with not less than 18 per cent or more than 32 per cent moisture. When the first young growth is noted protect it from the direct rays of the sun. Seeds will take from 6 to 12 months to germinate. The young plants need a damp soil and atmosphere and much protection from the direct rays of the sun, as they are very delicate until 2 years old. The plant requires a mean annual temperature of about 72° F. These seeds came from what is considered the best plantation in the world." (*Damon.*)

44677 and 44678.

From Yunnanfu, Yunnan Province, China. Purchased from Mr. Frank Pilson. Received June 25, 1917.

44677. DOCYNIA DELAVAYI (Franch.) C. Schneid. Malaceæ.

"*To-i*. Wild pear." (*Pilson.*)

An ornamental, evergreen, spiny tree, up to 30 feet in height, with glossy, ovate-lanceolate leaves, 2 to 4 inches long, and umbels of white flowers which appear in the spring. The fruit is an ovoid pome about an inch long. The tree is a native of southwestern China and has recently been introduced into the subtropical regions of the United States. The fruits are more or less acid and are used for cooking. They could possibly be improved by selection and hybridization. The tree is propagated by seeds and might possibly be grafted on apple stock. (Adapted from *Bailey, Standard Cyclopaedia of Horticulture, vol. 2, p. 1063.*)

44678. QUERCUS sp. Fagaceæ.

Oak.

"I sent back to Szemao to get acorns of *Quercus rex*. Talifu is 14 days from here by sedan chair and Szemao 20, so that I found it necessary to enlist the aid of friends in securing these seeds." (*Pilson.*)

Received as *Quercus rex*, but the material does not agree with that of this species previously received.

44679 to 44681. PERSEA AMERICANA Mill. Lauraceæ. Avocado.
(*P. gratissima* Gaertn. f.)

From Guatemala. Bud wood collected by Mr. Wilson Popenoe, agricultural explorer. Received April to June, 1917.

44679. "(Nos. 98, 158, 177. Avocado No. 22.) *Kekehi*. A remarkable little fruit, valuable not only for its earliness but also for its productiveness and good quality. It commences to ripen in December, at least two months before most of the other avocados in the same region. Though small in size, the seed is proportionately small, leaving a good amount of flesh of excellent quality. It has a very long ripening season, which suggests its use as a variety for the home garden.

"The parent tree is growing in a sitio belonging to Santiago Mendoza, in the town of Purula, Department of Baja Vera Paz, Guatemala. The altitude is approximately 5,150 feet. The soil is a heavy clay loam. The tree stands on a slope, in the midst of a small patch of maize (Indian corn). It is about 35 feet in height, with a trunk 2 feet