

## 45575 to 45578—Continued.

the base, but never developing to a great height. In spring it produces white flowers resembling apple blossoms. In early fall, commencing about October, the fruits ripen, and from this month are abundant in all the markets until after Christmas. They are much used for decorative purposes, after being strung on long threads. They are eaten in several ways, principally stewed and in the form of jelly. For stewing they are first boiled with wood ashes, after which the skin is easily removed; they are then placed in hot sirup and boiled for a short time. Their flavor somewhat suggests that of the apple and is very pleasant.

"The fruits look like small apples, being nearly spherical, yellow with russet dots and a blushed cheek, and having a slender stem. The largest ones are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. The ordinary size is about 1 inch. The thin skin surrounds a rather dry, yellowish, mealy pulp and three large seeds. The plant is easily grown and should succeed in California and Florida."

**45576.** ANNONA CHERIMOLA Mill. Annonaceæ. **Cherimoya.**

"(No. 217a. November 22, 1917.) Seeds from exceptionally fine cherimoyas, the largest ones weighing more than 4 pounds. These were purchased at the market in the city of Guatemala. It seems worth while to grow these seeds and bring the trees into fruit, in the hope that choice varieties may be obtained. They should be tested in southern California."

**45577.** BURSERA sp. Balsameaceæ. **Copal.**

"(No. 218a. November 22, 1917.) One of several species which furnish the copal gum so extensively used in Guatemala as incense. The burning of this incense in religious ceremonies is a custom which has come down from the earliest times and is still practiced, mainly by the Indians. The gum is obtained by making incisions in the bark of the tree, which is rather small in size and is common in the highlands, both wild and cultivated."

**45578.** DAHLIA POPENOVII Safford. Asteraceæ. **Dahlia.**

"(219a. November 22, 1917.) Collected near Santa Maria de Jesus, Department of Sacatepequez, at an altitude of about 6,800 feet.

"This species is common in the region around the city of Guatemala and as far north as the Chuacus Mountains. It has been seen as high as 7,000 feet and as low as 5,000, but is most common between 6,000 and 6,500, frequently in open places along the roadsides and ravines. The plant grows about 4 feet high. It flowers abundantly during September and October, the flowers being 2 to 3 inches broad, with 8-ray florets. The latter are all infertile, long and slender in form, and orange-brown to crimson in color. This species is of interest to those engaged in breeding or studying the cultivated dahlias. Mr. W. E. Safford considers it the probable ancestor of the cultivated cactus dahlias."

**45579.** PSIDIUM FRIEDRICHSTHALIANUM (Berg) Niedenzu. Myrtaceæ. **Costa Rican guava.**

From Matania el Saff, Egypt. Seeds presented by Mr. Alfred Bircher, Middle Egypt Botanic Station. Received December 18, 1917.

"This is a very sour but very aromatic guava which might be used in addition to other fruits. It is medium sized, yellow, with yellow flesh. The glossy