

45598 to 45604—Continued.**45603 and 45604. RHEEDIA LATERIFLORA L. Clusiaceæ.**

(Trinidad, British West Indies, July 31, 1917. Seed presented to Dr. Fassig by Mr. J. B. Rorer.)

"The hatstand tree is a name which is said to be given to *Rheedia lateriflora*. It is common in the woods of Trinidad and is noted for its regular branching character when young. A small tree of 8 or 10 feet will often have as many as 20 or more branches of even size thrown out at regular and close intervals, at an angle of 45 degrees from the main stem. It is frequently cut, placed in a heavy base, and used as a hatstand; and when shortened into a pyramidal form and nicely trimmed and polished, it serves exceedingly well for the purpose." (*J. R. Jackson, The Garden, July 25, 1903.*)

45605. POLYGONUM TINCTORIUM Lour. Polygonaceæ.

From China. Seeds collected by Mr. Frank N. Meyer, Agricultural Explorer for the Department of Agriculture. Received October 6, 1917.

"(No. 2443a. Hankow, China. June 14, 1917.) An annual herb, much cultivated throughout northern and central China for the blue dye it produces, which, however, fades easily. It is sown on rich lands toward the end of February, and the first cutting is made during June, and a much smaller one during August. Farther north the sowing takes place later and but one cutting can be obtained. To procure the dye material the plants are deposited in plastered pits, water is poured over them, and they are allowed to decay for several weeks; then the stems are taken out and the water is allowed to evaporate. When at last the slimy mass in the pit has become sufficiently dry, quicklime is added and thoroughly mixed, and the material is allowed to dry out until it can be well worked. It is then taken out and kept in tubs, barrels, and other vessels until needed for dyeing. The freshly dyed cloth possesses a most unpleasant odor which can often be detected for a considerable distance. Gradually, however, the wind takes away the odor and the cloth can then be made into garments. The dye seems to be used almost exclusively for the dyeing of coarse cotton cloth. Chinese name of the plant *Liao lan*." (*Meyer.*)

45606. PYRUS BETULAEFOLIA Bunge. Malaceæ. Pear.

From Jamaica Plain, Mass. Seeds presented by the Arnold Arboretum. Received November 28, 1917.

A slender, quick-growing, graceful tree, 20 to 30 feet high, with gray-felted young branches and round-ovate, long-pointed, coarsely toothed, lustrous leaves. The white flowers, three-fourths of an inch across, are borne in clusters of 8 to 10 and are followed by grayish brown, white-dotted fruits the size of peas. The Chinese use this species as a stock for the larger fruited pears. (Adapted from *Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 279.*)

45607. SMILAX sp. Smilacaceæ. Sarsaparilla.

From Kingston, Jamaica. Roots presented by Mr. W. Harris, Hope Gardens, Department of Agriculture. Received December 20, 1917.

This plant is used in Jamaica as a source of the sarsaparilla of commerce.