

running wild in Ceylon, Hongkong, and the Phillippines, mostly at fairly high altitudes.

I am indebted to Dr. G. A. C. Herklots of Hong Kong for sending me material of this species for comparison with our species.

Voandezia subterranea Thouars. Bambarra ground-nut (ถั่วหัวรี).

This plant, a native of Africa, has been cultivated in Patalung Province for some years. Its nuts may often be seen on the trays of refreshment vendors at Patalung Station. The cultivation of the plant is not extensive, and does not seem to have extended northwards of Patalung Province.

Unlike the ordinary ground-nut, which they somewhat resemble, these nuts contain very little oil, but are said to make better eating.

A short account of the cultivation of the Bambarra ground-nut is given by W. N. Sands in the *Malayan Agricultural Journal* (Vol. XIX, July, 1931). It is there stated that this plant was imported to Kuala Lumpur from Mauritius in 1911; and that it is now cultivated to a considerable extent in Kedah, chiefly by Chinese market-gardeners. No doubt from there the cultivation spread to Siam.

Bangkok, February 11, 1932.

A. KERR.

No. VI. Introduced Plants.

Azadirachta indica was introduced by the late Sir Harold Lyle from India, and first grown in Nan about 1900. It is now fairly common in the North, and is called by the people "ton quinine".¹

Grape fruit was introduced from America by Dr. E. C. Cort, about 1920. It is doing well and getting more common.

The lemon was also introduced by Dr. Cort from America, in 1928. Only one tree was brought out, but it is flourishing and covered with fruit.

Chiengmai, October 6, 1931.

A. L. QUERPEL.

No. VII. The Cape Gooseberry.

I think the first introduction of the Cape gooseberry (*Physalis peruviana*) should date further back, by several years at least, than the time given in "Notes on Introduced Plants in Siam" in the last

¹ The facts about the introduction of this tree were brought to my notice by Mrs. Collins. I excluded it from my list, however, as being an indigenous species. It seems, nevertheless, that the true *indica* was introduced as stated, while the indigenous trees are varieties of that species; see *Flora Siamensis Enumeratio*, Vol. I, Pt. 2, pp. 250, 251.

A. K.

number of the Supplement. I remember, in the year 2465 (beginning of 1923), when Chow Phya Bholadep, as Minister of Agriculture, first went up north, Mrs. Medworth already had several beds of Cape gooseberry plants in full bearing, in the forest compound at Chiengmai. I believe that was the first time I ever tasted fresh Cape gooseberries in Siam.

PHYA WINIT WANADORN.

Bangkok, October 2, 1931.

No. VIII. A Reputed Rejuvenator.

Some months ago Mr. H. B. Garrett wrote to me about a plant that was attracting much attention in Chiengmai, sending me a leaflet and a pamphlet on the subject. Later I heard from Dr. E. C. Cort about the same plant.

This plant is a well known woody climber, *Butea superba*, called in N. Siam 'kwao kûa'. It apparently sometimes has tubers on its roots, which may be white, red or black. From these tubers, a drug, reputed to have miraculous properties, is made.

The first account of this drug seen was in the form of a single leaflet, printed on one side only, in Yuan (N. Siam) character, without date, author, printer or place of printing. This leaflet pointed out that the 'kwao kûa' had three kinds of tubers, black, red and white; of these, the black was the strongest and the white the weakest. In the directions given, the tuber had to be cut into thin slices and dried, then crushed into powder and mixed with honey. Of this mixture a pill the size of a peppercorn, half that size or a third that size had to be taken, according as the pills had been made from the white, red or black tubers. Only one pill was to be taken daily, and that at bed-time. Persons under forty years of age were forbidden to take the pills. A given charm ('kata') had to be repeated twenty seven times when the drug was compounded, and the five commandments had to be strictly observed while taking it. The leaflet goes on to say that, so taken for three to six months, these pills would cure all the ninety six diseases, give long life and protect from danger.

It will be seen that this leaflet makes the extravagant claims often put forward for such drugs, and by itself would hardly merit further attention. Early this year, however, Luang Anusan Suntara, a well-known merchant in Chiengmai, had become so convinced of the virtues of this drug that he thought it his duty to give all mankind the opportunity of sharing in the benefits to be derived from it. Accordingly he published a pamphlet on the subject. This is in Siamese, and was issued in May, 1931. On the outside cover is a rough cut showing the 'kwao kûa' climbing up a tree, and the tubers on its roots. This is reproduced here. The reproduction, however,