

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.

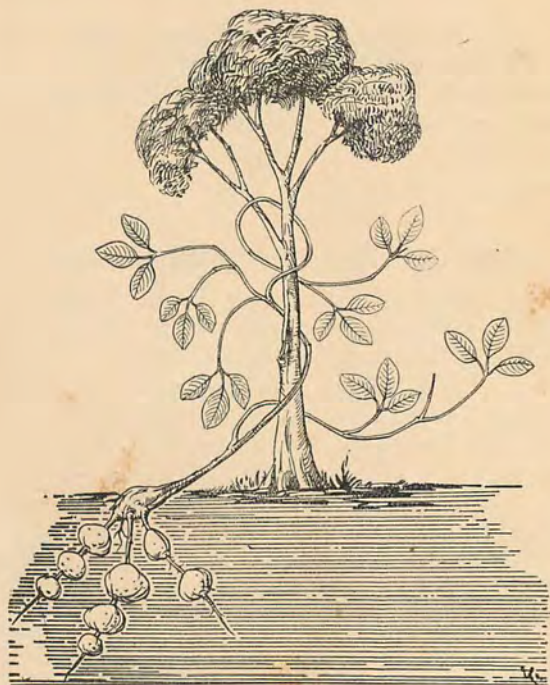
No. VIII. A Reputed Rejuvenator.

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,



is not quite exact, as the artist has added details, such as venation of the leaves, not present in the original.

The main part of the pamphlet is a translation from the Burmese, by Nai Plien Kitisri, and that again is said to have been taken from an old palm-leaved manuscript found in the ruins of Pukam (Pagan). In the translation from the original various ways of making up the medicine are described, and very extravagant claims are made for it; including its powers to rejuvenate, prolong life and cure all diseases, external and internal. Its ability to produce a soft, youthful skin, and to turn white hair black, are stressed.

The most interesting part of the pamphlet is, however, Luang Anusan's own evidence, given in a foreward. Luang Anusan is, it may be said, a man well on in years. He tells us that, since taking the medicine, which he has done for more than ten months, he has been able to eat well, his bodily ailments have been lessened, and he feels vigorous. While formerly he had to use three or four blankets to keep him warm at night in the cold season, now he finds that one suffices. He also informs us that many witnesses have testified to him of women of seventy and eighty starting to menstruate again after taking these pills. I am told, however, by a reliable authority, that Luang Anusan himself has not yet developed a youthful

appearance.

It will be interesting to follow the history of this medicine. If it soon drops into oblivion, as most of them do, we may take it that the claims made for it are baseless. On the other hand, it may turn out a serious rival to monkey-glands.

A. KERR.

Bangkok, August, 1931.

No. IX. Butterflies Visiting a Tent.

On July 28th, in the afternoon, Mr. A. Marcan and I camped at Pak Tawan, a village on the banks of the Pran River. We had two tents, both of which were pitched more or less in the shade of trees. That of Mr. Marcan was by a tamarind tree, while mine was partly under a jujube tree (*Zizyphus jujuba*). Both tents were facing southwards, towards the river. On the first afternoon butterflies round the tents were not particularly noticed. On returning to camp on the afternoon of the 29th, after a heavy shower, swarms of butterflies were flying round, and settling on my front tent-pole. There were probably as many as fifty settled on it at one time. The back pole was covered on the outside by the tent-flap, and there were no butterflies seen near it, then or later. At the same time there were only four or five butterflies round the front pole of my companion's tent. These butterflies belonged to two species, *Euploea modesta* Butl. and *Danaida melissa septentrionis* Butl. The *Euploeid* was present in somewhat greater numbers than the *Danaid*. It could be seen that these butterflies had their proboscides uncurled, and were feeling over the surface of the pole with them. It should be said that the pole was rather damp, as it had got wet with rain before being put up, and must have got wet again on the afternoon of the 29th. There was rain again early in the afternoon of the 30th, and on returning to camp some half an hour after the rain was over, at 2.40 p.m., there was again a large swarm of butterflies on and flitting round the pole. Towards dusk the number began to decrease, but the last did not disappear till 6.45 p.m. The jujube tree was examined later with an electric hand-torch, to see if any of the butterflies could be found settled on it, but none were seen. In the early morning it appeared as if they rose from some coarse herbage (*Sida acuta*, *Cardiospermum halicacabum* &c.) in front of the tent. I could not, however, be certain on the point.

On July 31st the first butterfly settled on the tent-pole at 6.10 a.m. On other mornings the first arrival was probably about the same time, but was not recorded. When I returned in the afternoon, about 4.40 p.m., there were only five or six on the pole. The day had been rather hot and windy. Plenty of both species were seen on damp patches of sand near the river. During August