

symptoms and died an hour later. The local physicians reported that death was the direct result of eating the *mangda*, called *hera* by some people and characterized by having hairs on its tail.

HUGH M. SMITH.

Bangkok, October 7, 1932.

### No. III. Yellow-banded Leaves in *Saccolabium giganteum*.

In the present possession of Phya Bhakdi Narong of Bangkok there is a specimen of the white-flowered variety of the orchid *Saccolabium giganteum* whose leaves have both the margins banded yellow, up to half a centimetre in width, and have in addition one or two narrow longitudinal stripes of similar colour next within either marginal band, the remaining stripes being pale green as in the leaves of ordinary specimens. This interesting sport is said to have been brought as a very young plant, with the variegation already plainly evident, from the forest of Wieng Chan, in the French Laos, about sixteen years ago.

As the specimen appears singular, it would be interesting if readers could cite other instances of the kind elsewhere.

PHYA WINIT WANANDORN.

Bangkok, 20th December 1932.

### No. IV. A Reputed Rejuvenator.

It is interesting to note that in the last number of the Supplement Dr. A. Kerr has made some reference to a drug under the above title afforded by the root tubers of *kwao kua* (*Butea superba*), concluding with an appropriate remark that if the drug soon drops into oblivion, as most of such drugs do, we may take it that the claims made for it are baseless, and that on the other hand it may turn out a serious rival to monkey-glands.

The *kwao kua* drug, in its compound with honey, it may be said, has been used as a general tonic by some people in Northern Siam for some years. The issue in 1931 of Luang Anusarn's pamphlet, in which different ways of compounding the drug were prescribed and many miraculous virtues of it proclaimed, however, created a vogue in its use as a rejuvenator. Now the vogue has subsided and we do not hear much about this precious drug. The cause of the subsidence is of course obvious. But whatever the general opinion to the contrary as to its value may be, the drug is nevertheless known to have actually expressed the following powers:—developing the breasts, inducing menstruation (or something like it) in women of 60–80 years of age, causing a regrowth of hair on bald