

NOTES

Illustrations of Chinese plants. Under the title "Icones plantarum sinicarum" the first fascicle of a work containing illustrations of Chinese plants is issued by the Department of botany of the National South-eastern University at Nanking.¹ It is edited by H. H. Hu and W. Y. Chun and dedicated to Charles Sprague Sargent, the late director of the Arnold Arboretum. The fifty plants described and figured are, with the exception of the three last numbers, all woody plants. The clear and well printed text consists of descriptions in English and Chinese with citations of literature and synonymy, notes on the distribution and habitat, on prominent characters and the economic uses if any. The large folio plates represent faithful drawings of flowering or fruiting branches or both in natural size with analytical figures. Most of the plants figured are well known species, but the following are figured here apparently for the first time: *Torreya Jackii* Chun, *Alnus Jackii* Hu, *Fortunearia sinensis* Rehd. & Wils., *Halesia Macgregorii* Chun, *Symplocos Chunii* Merr., *Lilium cathayanum* Wils. and *Zephyranthes Tsoui* Hu, the last named published here as a new species. The publication is highly creditable to its authors and we sincerely hope that other issues will follow soon and, if we may express a wish, will be devoted chiefly to Chinese plants not yet or only inadequately figured.

It may not be amiss to state here that the authors of the three first modern botanical works, of which this is one, written and published by Chinese botanists received their training at Harvard University and chiefly at the Arnold Arboretum, the two other publications "Catalogue of trees and shrubs of China," by H. H. Chung, and "Chinese economic trees," by W. Y. Chun having been prepared almost wholly at this Arboretum.—A. R.

Trees and Shrubs at Westonbirt.² Under this title the Arnold Arboretum recently received a sumptuous catalogue of the plants growing in the arboretum of the late Sir George Holford at Westonbirt, Gloucestershire, England. The volume is printed on most excellent paper and contains sixty-six collotype plates. It is gotten up in exquisite taste, does justice to its subject and is a credit to its compiler, Mr. A. B. Jackson, and to all concerned.

From the preface we learn that "for nearly a century tree planting has gone on at Westonbirt almost without interruption, and the skill and enthusiasm of two generations have achieved such a result that the visitor may wander over five hundred acres of arboretum and woodland and find at every few steps a new tree to admire."

¹ *Icones plantarum sinicarum*. Edited by Hsen-Hsu Hu and Woon-Young Chun. Department of Botany, College of Agriculture, Southeastern University, Nanking, China. 50 pp. 50 pl. F. Commercial Press, Ltd., Shanghai, China, 1927.

² *Catalogue of the Trees & Shrubs in the Collection of The Late Lieut-Col. Sir George Lindsay Holford, K.C.V.O., C.I.E., C.B.E.*, Compiled by A. Bruce Jackson, A.L.S., 4th ed. VII. 205 pp. 66pt.

The Westonbirt Arboretum contains a very complete collection of Silver Firs. One of the most successful is *Abies grandis* Lindl., native of north-west America. As showing the extraordinary rapidity of growth of this species we are told that "a tree moved into a sheltered position less than forty years ago is now 106 feet high by 7 feet 9 inches in girth of trunk." There are also handsome specimens of *A. Lowiana* Murr. native of the Pacific slope. An illustration shows of one of these trees, 77 feet tall by 7 feet in girth of trunk and branches flat on the ground; another is mentioned as being 91 feet tall with a trunk 8 feet 5 inches in girth. The tallest Silver Fir in the Arboretum is a specimen of *Abies pectinata* D.C., which is 106 feet tall with a trunk 10 feet 7 inches in girth. Mention may also be made of a good specimen of the Algerian *A. numidica* De Lanney, which is 49 feet 2 inches tall and 4 feet 2 inches in girth of trunk.

The European Yew (*Taxus baccata* L.) is one of the features of Westonbirt and we are told that "Sir George Holford's father with admirable foresight put a girdle of this Yew around the arboretum with such skill that each specimen group of trees and shrubs now stands against a perfect background." The arboretum is particularly rich in the trees and shrubs of North America and of China and Japan. Maples are favorites and we note that no fewer than seventy-two species and varieties are listed in the catalogue. Among them two specimens of the Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum* Marxh.) respectively 74 and 60 feet tall, are probably the finest in England. The Sugar Maple is extremely rare in the British Isles, where, for some reason or another, it does not flourish.

Another group well represented is Oaks, of which forty-three species and varieties are enumerated. We note a tree of the American White Oak (*Quercus alba* L.) 30 feet tall and again probably the finest example of a tree, very rare in British gardens.

It is sad to know that Sir George Holford did not live to see the completion of this catalogue on which he labored so diligently. His loss to dendrology is great, and those who knew Westonbirt and its courteous owner will deeply miss the presence of a gallant English gentleman.—E. H. W.

THE LIBRARY.—Of the volumes accessioned during the three months November 15, 1927–February 15, 1928, the most interesting from the point of view of the collector is a volume of Thomas Nuttall's "Original drawings, botanical subjects". The plates are the originals of those in his "North American sylva," but differ slightly from the published ones, as in the case of mountain ash where the fruit cluster is much diminished, while in others the position of details and color are changed. A few of the plates bear the names of French, Butler, Long, West, and Gamble as artists which may indicate that Nuttall had some help; his manuscript notes indicating changes, probably for the engraver, do not in all cases seem to have been carried out. The type-written sheet accompanying the plates reads:—"Thomas Nuttall naturalist, born Settle Yorkshire,

England 1786. He traveled extensively throughout America, even to the Pacific Coast, became Professor of Natural History in Harvard 1822, and curator of the Botanical Gardens 1828, returned to England in 1842 and died in St. Helen's, Lancashire 1859. He contributed articles to many periodicals and published several books on Birds, Botany and American Travel. This case holds over 50 of his Original Drawings of Botanical Subjects mostly Western Specimens with notations in his handwriting, nearly all hand colored. Elias Durand said of him 'no other explorer of the Botany of North America has personally made more discoveries, no writer on American Plants except perhaps Professor Asa Gray has described more Genera and Species'."

Another important addition is R. B. Hough's "American woods, a collection of actual specimens" in 13 volumes containing 987 wood specimens showing the beautiful and varying colors and structure of 325 different woods, in almost transparent sections, transverse, radial and tangential. A fourteenth volume is in preparation.

A little book of eight pages is "Vegetabilium cum animalibus comparatio. Upsaliae. 1737". Privately printed in facsimile by B. D. Jackson, with bibliographical note, "the author being the famous Lars Rôberg (1664-1742); it is noteworthy for an early citation of the first edition of the 'Systema Naturae', published at Leyden in December, 1735, nearly two years before".

"Chase fruit and flowers in natural colors" published by Chase Brothers Company of Rochester, and gift of the publishers is unique in the group of nursery catalogues, its exquisitely colored plates resembling very closely those published by the New York Agricultural experiment station, to whom they acknowledge indebtedness for much assistance.

"Boskoop, in its historical development as a centre of nurseries," an oblong large octavo, with colored plates, is another nursery catalogue on a magnificent scale.

Among other accessions are:—E. Silva Tarouca, "Unsere freiland stauden," 1927; V. A. Rybin, "Über anatomische merkmale im fruchtbau verschiedener apfelsorten," 1925, and E. L. Wolf, "Coniferous trees and shrubs in regions of the Soviet Republic in Europe and Asia," 1925. (Both works in Russian and gifts of the authors); A. B. Jackson, "Catalogue of the trees and shrubs in the collection of the late Lieut-Col. Sir George Lindsay Holford," 1927; W. D. Prior, "Roses and their culture," 1892; Mary V. Walcott, "North American wild flowers," vol. 3, 1925 (Gift of Mrs. L. A. Frothingham); J. Dravnieka, "Anglu-latvju vardnica" [English-Latvian dictionary], 1924; Eleanor S. Rohde, "Garden-craft in the Bible, and other essays," 1927; Takenoshin Nakai, "Flora sylvatica koreana," pt. xvi, 1927; E. H. M. Cox, "Farrer's last journey to Upper Burma, 1919-20," 1926; G. C. Druce, "The flora of Buckinghamshire," 1926; "Revue de botanique appliquée & d'agriculture coloniale," 1921-26; M. Büsgen and E. Münch, "Bau und leben unsererer waldbäume," 1927;

D. J. Browne, "The trees of America, native and foreign," 1857 (Gift of Mr. Samuel Henshaw); J. V. Suringar, "Contributions à l'étude des espèces du genre *Melocactus* des Indes Néerlandaises Occidentales," 1901 (Gift of the author); Kôki Masui, "A study of ectotrophic Mycorrhiza," 1926, and "The compound Mycorrhiza of *Quercus*," 1926 (Gifts of the author); "*American gardening*," vol. 18-25, 1897-1904, and "*Gardener's magazine*," vol. 34-40, 42-50, 1891-97, 1899-1907 (Gifts of Bussey Institution); Vicary Gibbs, "Taxaceae at Aldenham and Kew," 1926 (Gift of the author); E. P. Phillips, "Genera of South African flowering plants," 1926; H. H. Hu, and W. Y. Chun, "Icones plantarum sinicarum," fasc. i, 1927, an important work of especial interest as the result of work done at the Arboretum and dedicated to Professor C. S. Sargent. (Gift of the authors); and "Union list of serials in the libraries of the United States and Canada," edited by Winifred Gregory, an imposing and invaluable work of reference.—E. M. T.



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