

together under the general title of *Nung shu*, or Book of Agriculture.

The two greatest Chinese encyclopedias.

The bulkiest work secured during the past year was the *Ch'in ting ku chin t'u shu chi ch'êng* compiled by Ch'ên Mêng-lei and others. This famous work, commonly called the Imperial Encyclopedia by western scholars, is in 10,000 books and was originally published in 5,000 volumes in 1726 A. D. The present edition is the smallest one ever issued and is bound in 1,628 volumes, which fill 320 portfolios. This edition was printed with movable metal type by Major Bros. in Shanghai and is said to have been begun in 1885 and finished in 1888, but the date of printing given on the back of the title-page is 1884. Fifteen hundred copies of this edition are said to have been printed. The Library of Congress has already the so-called Ts'ung Li Yamen photolithographic reprint of this work, made in Peking by the Chinese Government near the end of the nineteenth century which was presented to the United States Government by the Empress Dowager during the administration of President Roosevelt. The present small-size edition is more convenient for everyday use and will permit the large size Ts'ung Li Yamen copy to be set aside for reference only, as it is one of the most costly works in the Library of Congress.

During the past year four additional volumes were secured of another still more famous encyclopedic work, the *Yung Lo ta tien*, which was discussed at some length in the report of the Librarian of Congress for 1922-23. Two of the four volumes are originals, containing books 15142 and 15143.

Another volume, the gift of the Metropolitan Library at Peking, has been reproduced in facsimile by photolithography and is printed on paper similar to the original and bound in cloth resembling that used on the original volumes. This volume includes book 2610-2611 and was reprinted by the scholar who conceals his identity under the famous pseudonym Ts'ang Yüan Chü Shih—literally, "scholar secreted in a garden." The work was printed in 1926 and contains two very important works of the Yüan dynasty concerning the censorate of that period.