

man temple at Kamakura, which is claimed to be over a thousand years old, and of which the trunk has a circumference of twenty feet. The fruit is about the size of a damson, and the nut-like kernels are used as food. This tree is also called *Ginko biloba*, the word *gin* signifying gold in Japanese. The Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidata*) is a fine tree, and furnishes a much valued and beautiful wood.

Among the many interesting trees observed were several varieties of oak; fine walnuts, magnolias (the wood of *M. hypoleuca* being very close-grained and valuable); maples of various species and very pretty foliage, much prized for the autumn tints, which, however, do not equal those of Canadian maples; birches, like our white birch, upon the mountains; and a wonderful variety of other fine trees.

A remarkable feature of the forests is the great abundance of strong climbing plants, which festoon the trees, and frequently entirely hide them. Of these the Fuji (*Wisteria chinensis*) is the most striking species and winds its thick coils high around the lofty trunks, or even, when support is absent, about itself. This fine vine is much admired and forms a fine screen for verandahs and summer-houses, and when the immense clusters of bloom are pendent from it the effect is very fine. Curious trees are *Stuartia* and *Lagerstroemia*, which have red smooth trunks, and in Japanese are called Sarusuberi (from Saru a monkey and suberu to slide), because the trunks are so slippery.

Of fruit trees the principal are peach, plum, pear and persimmon. Peaches are by no means equal to American ones; plums are large and of good appearance, but the flavour is not so good as might therefrom be expected. Of pears enormous numbers are grown, and many of these are of large size and very pleasing colour, often a rich golden hue. They are much esteemed by the natives, but foreigners accustomed to other varieties find them very insipid, although when one is thirsty their juicy flesh is very refreshing. The persimmon, or kaki, is very largely grown and appears to be the favourite fruit of the Japanese. The fruit ripens late in the year, and until perfectly ripe are dreadfully astringent. When ripened fully, however, they are very good, especially those in which the flesh becomes a soft juicy pulp that has to be eaten with a spoon. Many of these fruits are dried and pressed like figs for winter use. The Japanese oranges are said to be