

of them giving excellent illustrations and the other describing plants and animals used in materia medica but not mentioned by Li Shih-chên in the original edition of the *Pên ts'ao kang mu*. This item is noted also under Japanese accessions, although it is written entirely in Chinese, as was usual at that period.

The Library of Congress now contains 8 editions of this great Chinese materia medica and also photographic copies or reprints from the original blocks of almost all of the first edition, making 9 editions in all. One other Japanese reprint is in the library of the United States Department of Agriculture, making 10 editions available for study in Washington.

A noteworthy addition to the collection of Chinese herbals in the Library of Congress is the *Shao Hsing chiao ting ching shih ch'êng lei pei chi pên ts'ao* compiled by Wang Chi-hsien, Chang Hsiao-chih, Tzu Yuan, and Kuo Shao-kung in 1159 A. D. The copy secured for the Library of Congress is a facsimile copy of a Japanese manuscript filed in the Palace Museum Library of the Forbidden City in Peking; it is incomplete, having only the preface, table of contents, and 404 plates bound in 5 volumes not divided into books. The complete work is said by the imperial catalogue to contain 33 books, although imperfect manuscript copies containing 22, 19, or even 5 books are reported by Chinese and Japanese bibliographers. Apparently only manuscript copies are now known, although the work was doubtless printed in 1159 A. D., the date of the preface, or very soon thereafter.

A Japanese manuscript copy of a lost Chinese herbal found in the Forbidden City in Peking.

The compilers mention a few ancient herbals, then go on to say, "When our glorious Sung dynasty arose, the immortal emperors came to pacify the world. Their benevolent influence extended to the four seas, while their love for their people was as great as heaven itself," and then lists four herbals, including the great *Ch'êng lei pên ts'ao* of T'ang Shên-wei, of which the Library of Congress has many reprints, all of which they damned with faint praise but apparently utilized to the full in making their own compilation.