

January and February. The paddy bundles are loosened, and heaped about two feet deep on the hard clay threshing ground, and then men drive a number of oxen round and round until the grain is tramped out. The straw is then removed and the women winnow the grain in dust-pan shaped affairs, then it is put into bags. The bags are loaded on to great clumsy ox-carts that take it to the market to be sold.

(b) Hundreds of thousands of acres are devoted to the growing of indigo plants in India. The plants are from three to five feet in height. When ready to flower, the plant is cut close to the ground, tied in bundles and put in large ruts of water for ten hours. It ferments, and the water turns yellow. Half-naked men whip the fluid with bamboo sticks for two or three hours, and it turns from yellow to green. Blue particles of indigo rise in flakes, and then sink to the bottom of the vat. This sediment is indigo. The water is drawn off, the indigo is later pressed into cakes, and shipped for washing clothes, making paints, and other purposes.

(c) The flax plant is raised in large quantities, and from the fibres linen cloth and strong sewing thread can be made. But in India, it is raised, mainly for the flaxseed, which is very valuable. The plant bursts out into beautiful blue flowers, and later on little balls of flax-seed take the place of these flowers. Each tiny ball contains ten seeds. The seeds are flat, oval, dark-brown in color, and shine as though varnished. The kernels are very oily, and when pressed they yield the linseed oil of commerce. This is used for making paints, oil cloth, and other things. A great part of the linseed oil used by our painters comes from India.

(d) One of the most important fibre plants is jute. It is used for making

rope, bagging, and other coarse cloth. The jute plant is a sort of reed growing in low, sandy soil, along the banks of India rivers. The seed is sown in April, and the crop is ripe in August. The plant's height is twelve feet. When ripe, it is cut close to the ground, then thrown into water in order to rot the outer skin or bask. The skin becomes soft and peels off, and the fibre or wool within is taken out and washed. The fibre needs little preparation for market, for after washing, it is put into bales and then is ready for shipment to all parts of the world.

(e) A tea plantation or estate is thus described for us by Miss Ryerse: "Tea does not grow in the great plains of India, where it is hot and dry many months of the year, but in North and South India upon the hills. One holiday in the Hills, I lived on a large tea estate. The tea bushes grow on such steep hillsides, you would wonder how the men keep the ground clean. The best bushes, of course, are in the valley or level places. The bushes average two feet high and from one to three feet across, for they are kept pruned low and flat across the top. On the steep hillsides, the rows are alternately intersected with short ditches two feet deep, so that the water and the good soil will not be able to slide down to the foot of the hills."

In May or June three pickings are made about two weeks apart. Only the new green leaves at the ends of the shoots are taken. Women do the picking, putting the leaves into odd shaped baskets.

The tea plant is green all the year round, and does not look unlike our privet. Sometimes after picking is over, they prune off all the little branches, leaving only the stumps. The flower is cream-colored and fragrant.

The day I went to the tea house, there was no one I could question, but