

ing the *Li chih p'u* of Ts'ai Hsiang. This copy was made through the cooperation of T. L. Yuan, librarian of the Metropolitan Library, Peking, from the original set of the *Ssu k'u ch'üan shu* filed in a wonderfully beautiful special palace, the Wên Yüan Ko, in the Forbidden City at Peking for the personal use of the great Manchu Emperor Ch'ien Lung by whose order this enormous manuscript library was compiled by a commission of scholars in the third quarter of the eighteenth century.

The Library of Congress now possesses a facsimile copy of one volume of this great collection—the largest ever assembled in China or any other country, including over 3,000 of the leading Chinese works of all ages copied in beautiful, uniform calligraphy in some 40,000 volumes that fill an entire palace.

Including these 5 new texts the Library of Congress now has about 20 texts of the *Li chih p'u*, 5 of them in photographic copy, 1 a manuscript copy, and the rest printed copies or rubbings made from stone or wood carved in the style of inscriptions. Every one of these texts differs from all of the others in some point and it is only by a study of all of them that a reasonably correct text of this great agricultural classic can be restored.

Incidentally the lychee is beginning to show promise for culture in the warmer parts of the United States and the information secured from the *Li chih p'u* and other Chinese treatises on this, the queen of all Chinese fruits, are proving a potent help in acclimatizing it in this country.

In the report of the Librarian of Congress for 1921-22 mention is made of the very important record concerning the manufacture and use of movable type for printing given as an appendix to the *Nung shu* or Book of Agriculture written by Wang Chêng in 1313 A. D. Additional mention of the Chinese records of movable type is also made in the report of the Librarian of Congress in 1924-25 wherein is noted a work entitled, "History of Movable Type Used in the Wu Ying Palace," a work printed with movable type in 1773. This important evidence was quoted at some length in the work of the late Prof. Thomas F. Carter, "The Invention of Printing in

The Nung shu
record of mov-
able type print-
ing.