

of Hupeh published, but was sorry that it contained typographical errors, so he very thoroughly revised and corrected it and reprinted it to make it convenient to use."

Although Ch'êng Chia-hsiang states in his preface that he had written a treatise, *Secret Remedies for Small-pox*, in five books, his name is not given in the Chinese Medical Dictionary published in 1922. However, Ch'êng Kuo-hsiang, who wrote the first undated preface to this edition, is included in the latest Chinese biographical dictionary, *Chung Kuo jen ming ta tzu tien*, published in 1921 by the Commercial Press, Shanghai.

At the time this work was purchased it was noticed that the text was mostly printed in small Chinese characters, unlike any of the other editions printed early in the seventeenth century. A comparison was at once suggested with the first edition printed in 1590, which also had similar small characters. When this 1640 edition was compared with the original edition in the Imperial Cabinet library in the Imperial Palace grounds at Tokyo through the kindness of Dr. M. Shirai, it was found that *both were printed from the same blocks*. In other words, the so-called revised and corrected edition put out by Ch'êng Chia-hsiang in 1640 was in reality printed from the blocks then 50 years old from which the first edition had been printed.

Fortunately, it was possible through the friendly cooperation of Professor Shirai to secure photographic copies from the original edition of the *Pên ts'ao kang mu* preserved in the Cabinet library in the Imperial Palace grounds at Tokyo. These photographs reproduce the preface, list of compilers, and the first pages of several books of text and illustrations, as well as the full text and the illustration relating to maize. The item on maize was also secured in photographic copy from the only other known copy of the first edition now in the library of the botanical department of the Imperial University of Kyoto through the kindness of Dr. B. Laufer, of the Field Museum of Chicago. Inasmuch as the text proper of the first edition is reproduced from the same blocks as the 1640 reprint just secured, it is now possible to reconstruct the first edition from the material in the