

T'ung in three books bound in two volumes. The latest preface is dated 1531, which probably represents the date of publication, as the paper and style of characters are those used about the middle of the sixteenth century. This work is a record of interesting medical cases treated by Wang Chi, which text was corrected and printed by his pupil, Ch'ên T'ung. The work contains a supplement, giving a biography of Wang Chi and two other supplements, one by Wang Chi and one by Ch'êng Chiao, in which they discuss in some detail the Chinese drug commonly called *Huang ch'i* (*Astragalus Hoantchy*, Franch.) and its use together with ginseng.

This work is included in the great *Ssu k'u ch'üan shu* manuscript library prepared by order of the Emperor Ch'ien Lung, which shows that it must have been considered a work of permanent value.

Wang Chi is the author of the Chinese herbal *Pên ts'ao hui pien*. It is quite probable that an attentive study of the *Shih shan i an* will bring to light very interesting notes on Chinese drugs and their use in medical practice. This work was picked up in a small, dilapidated Chinese bookshop in Shanghai, where at first sight one would not suppose it possible to find any rare old books, as most of the books on sale were of very little if any value. This merely shows how during the present upset conditions in China works of great value are sometimes found in the most unexpected places.

In the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for 1925-26 mention was made of the collection of texts of the *Li chih p'u* by Ts'ai Hsiang, the earliest scientific work on fruit culture known in any country, written during the Sung dynasty in 1059 A. D. It is a monographic study of the lychee, the favorite fruit of the Chinese.

*Monograph of the lychee, the first scientific treatise on pomology.*

As a result of investigations made by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture five additional early texts of this famous work were secured last year, one in manuscript and four in photographic reproduction, of which extra prints have been filed in the Library of Congress. Three of these texts are from three editions of the *Po ch'üan hsueh hai*,