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CHINESE SUGAR CANE.

The introduction of new plants among the cultivated products of the farm must always be regarded with peculiar interest, and when the experiments prove successful, the results assume a character of great national value and importance. Root culture, so extensively practised of late years, has, to a great extent, changed the character of our agriculture; increasing largely the amount of food, not excepting even the grain crops, without diminishing, but rather improving the productive capabilities of the soil. The adoption of the ordinary white varieties of the turnip into field culture, was a most important step to a long career of agricultural improvement, leading directly to the general introduction of those appliances and improvements, which distinguish our modern systems of practical husbandry. The Swedish variety of the turnip—denominated on this continent the *ruta бага*—has, to a great extent, superseded the former, it being far more nutritious, and capable of being much longer kept, while the *mangel-wurzel* has subsequently, in a considerable degree, outstripped both, affording on certain descriptions of soil larger returns of nutritious food to most descriptions of farm stock. And yet, more recently, the Belgian carrot, and Sillesian or sugar beet, containing as they do a very large amount of saccharine matter, have in some localities been largely introduced with the most advantageous results.

Still more recently, another plant has been introduced into the husbandry of Europe and America, for which we are indebted to China, and it promises to become extensively cultivated in climates having a tolerably high summer temperature. The Sorgho, or as it is more commonly designated,—Chinese Sugar Cane,—appears to be of a nature somewhat between the ordinary sugar cane and the several varieties of maize or Indian corn. In its growth