

**Piassava from Sierra Leone.** In connection with efforts which are being made by the Department of Lands and Forests in Sierra Leone to improve the methods of preparing and grading piassava, forty-six samples prepared experimentally by the Government Agricultural Chemist, were forwarded for examination and report. The samples had been obtained from two different species of *Raphia* palms; from both young and old trees; from different parts of the leaf-sheath; and had been retted for different periods. A full report on the samples was furnished, including the opinions of merchants and manufacturers as to their comparative merits and commercial value, and large samples of the grades of piassava required in this country are being forwarded for guidance in connection with future work.

**Ginger and Ginger Peelings from Sierra Leone.** In continuation of previous efforts to improve the preparation of ginger in Sierra Leone, a sample of peeled ginger was forwarded by the Commissioner of Lands and Forests for comparison with the usual unpeeled product. The ginger had been well prepared and was of good quality. Merchants who were consulted stated that shipments of such material would be readily saleable in this country at prices considerably above that of ordinary Sierra Leone ginger. It was suggested that if the ginger were limed and freed from the smaller pieces it would more closely resemble "cut" Cochin ginger and would realise a still higher price. At the suggestion of the Imperial Institute a quantity of the ginger peelings was also forwarded by the Commissioner in order that the yields of essential oil and extract might be determined. The results were very satisfactory and the material would probably find a good opening in this country, but trials on an industrial scale will be necessary before it is possible to report definitely. A small consignment of the peelings has since been received and sold to manufacturers for practical tests.

**Cascara Bark from Kenya Colony.** The tree yielding this bark is being cultivated experimentally by the Forestry Department in Kenya, and a sample received at the Imperial Institute in 1924 was found to be of satisfactory quality and to comply with the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia. It was pointed out, however, that therapeutical trials would be necessary to ascertain whether the bark is as active medicinally as cascara bark from other sources, and subsequently a larger quantity of the bark was forwarded for this purpose. After the bark had been stored for a year as