

Table II.

Percentage of Germination of Seeds from Tapped Trees coated with Bees Wax and Paraffin.

No of box.	No. of seeds in box.	Length of time the seeds were in boxes.	NO. OF PLANTS OBTAINED.		PERCENTAGE OF SEED GERMINATION.		
			Bees Wax.	Paraffin.	Bees Wax.	Paraffin.	Untreated.*
1	180	3 weeks	107	62	59	34	33
2	180	5 "	108	71	60	40	23
3	180	7 "	94	74	52	41	24
4	180	8 "	82	66	45	37	20
5	180	9 "	100	61	55	34	20
6	180	10 "	86	58	47	32	24

* Untreated seeds from tapped trees (see Expt. I.)

In no case was there apparent a large falling off in germinating power from the third to the tenth week.

It is hoped to repeat both experiments in 1912.

GOGO VINE.

(*Entada scandens*, Benth).

In the "Board of Trade Journal," September 14th last, reference is made to samples of "soap bark," the prepared bark of the Gogo Vine recently received from H. M. Consul at Manila, with the information that the material is suitable for the manufacture of soap and hair-washes.

From small specimens of the stem and prepared bark obtained from the Board of Trade, it has been possible to determine the material as the produce of *Entada scandens*. This is an immense climber cosmopolitan in the tropics, and may be readily recognised by its spirally twisted stems and huge pods which are from two to four feet long, containing hard polished flat circular seeds of a chestnut colour. So long ago as May, 1855, the late Mr. T. C. Archer presented to the Museum a similarly prepared sample of the bark under the same vernacular name, with a note to the effect that it contains saponaceous properties, forms a lather with water, and is much used by Manila ladies for cleaning the hair. The following particulars as to the mode of preparing the bark and its local applications are gathered from "The Medicinal Plants of the Philippines,"

by T. H. Pardo de Tavera, p.106:—"The use made of the mashed bark of this tree is well known throughout the Philippines. Cut in strips and beaten thoroughly between stones it is sold under the name of 'Gogo,' it is macerated in water to which it imparts a reddish colour, and forms a substitute for soap. The Filipinos use this preparation for bathing especially the hair, for which purpose there is no more useful or simple preparation. It cures pityriasis, and renders the hair very soft, without drying it too much as is usually the case with soap. The natives use it in treating the itch, washing the affected parts with the maceration and at the same time briskly rubbing them with the bark; in this way they remove the crusts that shield the acari. The treatment is successful in direct proportion to the energy of rubbing. . . . The maceration of gogo is emetic and purgative; it is used in the treatment of asthma; it is exceedingly irritating, the slightest quantity that enters the eye causing severe smarting and a slight conjunctivitis for one or two days."

The seeds, which contain saponin, are stated to be used by the Nepalese in the preparation of a hairwash. According to Watt (Dict. Econ. Prod., India,) the most general use to which the seeds are applied in India is for crimping linen. The Dhobis cut one side of the seed and scoop out the kernel then they introduce two fingers into the cavity, and quickly stroke the damp linen forwards with its polished surface. This crimps it beautifully crossways. The seeds are made occasionally into snuff-boxes and other articles, and are often carried long distances by ocean currents.—(*Kew Bulletin*, page 474—No. 10 1911)

J. M. H.

The subject of the preceding note (*Entada scandens*) is a fairly common plant throughout the Malay Peninsula where it is known under the native name of "Akar Beluru." The flowers are borne on spikes 6-10 inches long but are not attractive. The pod which is said to be 1-3 feet long is spirally curved into a mass in the Malay plants, and has the appearance of being far too heavy for so slender a climber, which however, depends on its tendrils for support. There is a model of the fruit in the collection at Raffles Museum.

R. DERRY.

FACTORIES ON PLANTATIONS.

The Selection of a Site.

The selection of a suitable factory site requires, in some countries, considerable thought. On hilly estates, it is customary to select some area as low, while as central, as possible. This generally enables the manager to economise in transport and sometimes to use water power.