

In *hu tsiao* ("pepper") the attribute *hu* distinctly refers to India.¹ Another example in which *hu* alludes to India is presented by the term *hu kan kian* 胡乾薑 ("dried ginger of the Hu"), which is a synonyme of *T'ien-ču* 天竺 *kan kian* ("dried ginger of India"), "produced in the country of the Brahmans."²

In the term *hu fen* 胡粉 (a cosmetic or facial powder of white lead), the element *hu* bears no relation to the Hu, although it is mentioned as a product of Kuča³ and subsequently as one of the city of Ili (Yi-li-pa-li).⁴ In fact, there is no Chinese tradition to the effect that this substance ever came from the Hu.⁵ F. P. SMITH⁶ observed with reference to this subject, "The word *hu* does not denote that the substance was formerly obtained from some foreign source, but is the result of a mistaken character." This evidently refers to the definition of the dictionary *Ši miñ* 釋名 by Liu Hi of the Han, who explains this *hu* by 餵 *hu* ("gruel, congee"), which is mixed with grease to be rubbed into the face. The process of making this powder from lead is a thoroughly Chinese affair.

In the term *hu yen* 胡鹽 ("salt of the Hu") the word Hu refers to barbarous, chiefly Tibetan, tribes bordering on China in the west; for there are also the synonymes *žuñ* 戎 *yen* and *k'ian* 羗 *yen*, the former already occurring in the *Pie lu*. Su Kuñ of the seventh century equalizes the terms *žuñ yen* and *hu yen*, and gives *t'u-teñ* 秃登 *yen* as the word used in Ša-ču 沙州. Ta Miñ 大明, who wrote in A.D. 970, says that this is the salt consumed by the Tibetans (Si-fan), and hence receives the designation *žuñ* or *k'ian yen*. Other texts, however, seem to make a distinction between *hu yen* and *žuñ yen*: thus it is said in the biography of Li Hiao-po 李孝伯 in the *Wei šu*, "The salt of the Hu cures pain of the eye, the salt of the Žuñ heals ulcers."

The preceding examples are sufficient to illustrate the fact that the element *hu* in botanical terms demands caution, and that each case must be judged on its own merits. No hard and fast rule, as deduced by Bretschneider, can be laid down: the mere addition of *hu* proves neither that a plant is foreign, nor that it is West-Asiatic or Iranian. There are native plants equipped with this attribute, and there are foreign plants thus characterized, which hail from Korea, India, or

¹ See below, p. 374.

² *Čeñ lei pen ts'ao*, Ch. 6, p. 67 b.

³ *Čou šu*, Ch. 50, p. 5; *Sui šu*, Ch. 83, p. 5 b.

⁴ *Ta Miñ i t'uñ ěi*, Ch. 89, p. 22; *Kwañ yü ki*, Ch. 24, p. 6 b.

⁵ *Pen ts'ao kañ mu*, Ch. 8, p. 6; GEERTS (Produits, pp. 596-601), whose translation "poudre des pays barbares" is out of place.

⁶ Contributions towards the Materia Medica of China, p. 231.