

šah-balut ("the edible chestnut," *Castanea vulgaris*), which appears in the Būdahišn (above, p. 193), as correctly identified by Hirth; but 蒲蘆 *p'u-lu* and *pa-lü* of the *Yu yan tsa tsu* (see above) would indicate that the Chinese heard *bulu* and *balu* without a final *t*, and such forms may have existed in Middle-Persian dialects. In fact, we have this type in the dialect of the Kurd in the form *berru*, and in certain Kurd dialects *barü* and *barru*.¹

¹ Cf. J. DE MORGAN, *Mission scientifique en Perse*, Vol. V, p. 133. The Iranian term means literally "acorn of the Shah, royal acorn," somehow a certain analogy to Greek Διός βάλανος ("acorn of Zeus"). The origin of Greek *καστανάιον* or *κάστανον* is sought in Armenian *kask* ("chestnut") and *kaskeni* ("chestnut-tree"; see SCHRADER in Hehn, *Kulturpflanzen*, p. 402). According to the Armenian Geography of Moses of Khorene, the tree flourished in the Old-Armenian province Duruperan (Daron); according to Galenus, near Sardes in Asia Minor; according to Daūd, on Cyprus; according to Abu Mansur, also in Syria; while, according to the same author, Persia imported chestnuts from Adherbeijan and Arran; according to Schlimmer, from Russia (E. SEIDEL, *Mechithar*, p. 152). It is striking that the Chinese did not see the identity of the Iranian term with their 栗 *li*, the common chestnut, several varieties of which grow in China.