

## THE "GOLD PEACH"

30. A fruit called yellow peach (*hwan t'ao* 黃桃) or gold peach (*kin t'ao* 金桃), of the size of a goose-egg, was introduced into China under the reign of the Emperor T'ai Tsuñ of the T'ang (A.D. 629-649), being presented by the country K'añ 康 (Sogdiana).<sup>1</sup> This introduction is assigned to the year 647 in the *T'añ hui yao*,<sup>2</sup> where it is said that Sogdiana offered to the Court the yellow peach, being of the size of a goose-egg and golden in color, and hence styled also "gold peach." A somewhat earlier date for the introduction of this fruit is on record in the *Ts'e fu yüan kwei*,<sup>3</sup> which has the notice that in A.D. 625 (under the Emperor Kao Tsu) Sogdiana presented gold peaches (*kin t'ao*) and silver peaches (*yin t'ao*), and that by imperial order they were planted in the gardens. This fruit is not mentioned in the *Pen-ts'ao* literature; it is not known what kind of fruit it was. Maybe it was a peculiar variety of peach.

## FU-TSE

31. *Fu-tse* 附子 is enumerated among the products of Sasanian Persia in the *Sui šu*.<sup>4</sup> *Pai* 白 *fu-tse* is attributed to the country Ts'ao (Jāgudā) north of the Ts'uñ-liñ,<sup>5</sup> and to Ki-pin.<sup>6</sup>

In the form 付子 *fu-tse*, it occurs in a prescription written on a wooden tablet of the Han period, found in Turkistan.<sup>7</sup> *Fu-tse* 附子 is identified with *Aconitum fischeri*, cultivated on a large scale in Čañ-miñ hien in the prefecture of Lu-ñan, Se-č'wan.<sup>8</sup> It is not known, however, that this species occurs in Persia.

Yi Tsiñ calls attention to the fact that the medicinal herbs of India are not the same as those of China, and enumerates tubers of aconite together with *fu-tse* among the best drugs of China, and which are never found in India.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Fuñ š'i wen kien ki*, Ch. 7, p. 1 b (ed. of *Ki fu ts'uñ šu*).

<sup>2</sup> Ch. 200, p. 14; also *T'ai p'iñ hwan yü ki*, Ch. 183, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Ch. 970, p. 8 b.

<sup>4</sup> Ch. 83, p. 7 b; also *Čou šu*, Ch. 50, p. 6.

<sup>5</sup> *Sui šu*, *ibid.*, p. 8 a.

<sup>6</sup> *T'ai p'iñ hwan yü ki*, Ch. 182, p. 12 b.

<sup>7</sup> CHAVANNES, Documents de l'époque des Han, p. 115, No. 530.

<sup>8</sup> STUART, Chinese Materia Medica, p. 10.

<sup>9</sup> TAKAKUSU, Record of the Buddhist Religion, p. 148.