

loan-word), denoting *Narcissus tazetta*, which is still cultivated in Persia and employed in the pharmacopœia.¹ Oil was obtained from the narcissus, which is called *ναρκισσίου* in the Greek Papyri.²

HIRTH³ has erroneously identified the Chinese name with the nard. Aside from the fact that the description of the *Yu yan tsa tsu* does not at all fit this plant, his restoration, from a phonetic viewpoint, remains faulty. K'añ-hi does not indicate the reading *not* for the first character, as asserted by Hirth, but gives the readings *nai*, *ni*, and *yiñ*. The second character reads *k'i*, which is evolved from *gi, but does not represent *ti*, as Hirth is inclined to make out.⁴

For other reasons it is out of the question to see the nard in the term *nai-k'i*; for the nard, a product of India, is well known to the Chinese under the term *kan sun hian* 甘松香.⁵ The Chinese did not have to go to Fu-lin to become acquainted with a product which reached them from India, and which the Syrians themselves received from India by way of Persia.⁶ Hebrew *nērd* (Canticle), Greek *νάργος*,⁷ Persian *nard* and *nārd*, are all derived from Sanskrit *nalada*, which already appears in the Atharvaveda.⁸ Hirth's case would also run counter to his theory that the language of Fu-lin was Aramaic, for the word *nard* does not occur there.

¹ SCHLIMMER, Terminologie, p. 390. Narcissus is mentioned among the aromatic flowers growing in great abundance in Bišāvūr, province of Fars, Persia (G. LE STRANGE, Description of the Province of Fars, p. 51). It is a flower much praised by the poets Hafiz and Jāmi.

² T. REIL, Beiträge zur Kenntnis des Gewerbes im hellenistischen Aegypten, p. 146. Regarding narcissus-oil, see Dioscorides, I, 50; and LECLERC, Traité des simples, Vol. II, p. 103.

³ *Journal Am. Or. Soc.*, Vol. XXX, 1910, p. 22.

⁴ See particularly PELLIOT, *Bull. de l'Ecole française*, Vol. IV, p. 291.

⁵ STUART, Chinese Materia Medica, p. 278.

⁶ I. LOEW, *Aram. Pflanzennamen*, pp. 368-369.

⁷ First in Theophrastus, *Hist. plant.*, IX. VII, 2.

⁸ See p. 455.