

and Ta Ts'in. J. L. SOUBEIRAN<sup>1</sup> says, "L'alun, qui était tiré primitivement de la Perse, est aujourd'hui importé de l'Occident." F. DE MÉLY<sup>2</sup> translates the term *Po-se ts'e fan* by "*fan violet de Perse*." All this is wrong. HIRTH<sup>3</sup> noted the difficulty in the case, as alum is not produced in Persia, but principally in Asia Minor. Pliny<sup>4</sup> mentions Spain, Egypt, Armenia, Macedonia, Pontus, and Africa as alum-producing countries. Hirth found in the *P'ei wen yün fu* a passage from the *Hai yao pen ts'ao*, according to which *Po-se fan* 波斯礬 ("Persian alum," as he translates) comes from Ta Ts'in. In his opinion, "Persian alum" is a misnomer, Persia denoting in this case merely the emporium from which the product was shipped to China. The text in question is not peculiar to the *Hai yao pen ts'ao* of the eighth century, but occurs at a much earlier date in the *Kwan' čou ki* 廣州記, an account of Kwan-tuñ, written under the Tsin dynasty (A.D. 265-419), when the name of Persia was hardly known in China. This work, as quoted in the *Čen lei pen ts'ao*,<sup>5</sup> states that *kin sien* 金線 *fan* ("alum with gold threads") is produced 生 in the country Po-se, and in another paragraph that the white alum of Po-se (*Po-se pai fan*) comes from Ta Ts'in.<sup>6</sup> The former statement clearly alludes to the alum discolored by impurities, as still found in several localities of India and Upper Burma.<sup>7</sup> Accordingly the Malayan Po-se (for this one only can come into question here) produced an impure kind of alum, and simultaneously was the transit mart for the pure white alum brought from western Asia by way of India to China. It is clear that, because the native alum of Po-se was previously known, also the West-Asiatic variety was named for Po-se. A parallel to the *Po-se fan* is the *K'un-lun fan*, which looks like black mud.<sup>8</sup>

61. The *Wu lu* 吳錄, written by Čan Po 張勃 in the beginning of the fourth century, contains the following text on the subject of "ant-lac" (*yi tsi* 蟻漆):<sup>9</sup> "In the district of Kü-fuñ 居風 (in Kiu-čen, Ton-

<sup>1</sup> Etudes sur la matière médicale chinoise (Minéraux), p. 2 (reprint from *Journal de pharmacie et de chimie*, 1866).

<sup>2</sup> Lapidaire chinois, p. 260.

<sup>3</sup> Chinesische Studien, p. 257.

<sup>4</sup> XXXV, 52.

<sup>5</sup> Ch. 3, p. 40 b.

<sup>6</sup> Also in the text of the *Hai yao pen ts'ao*, as reproduced in the *Pen ts'ao kañ mu* (Ch. II, p. 15 b), two Po-se alums are distinguished.

<sup>7</sup> WATT, Commercial Products of India, p. 61.

<sup>8</sup> *Pen ts'ao kañ mu*, l. c.

<sup>9</sup> *T'ai p'in hwan yü ki*, Ch. 171, p. 5.