

JOHN GERARDE¹ illustrates the rhubarb-plant and annotates, "It is brought out of the countrie of Sina (commonly called China) which is towarde the east in the upper part of India, and that India which is without the river Ganges: and not at all Ex Scenitarum provincia, (as many do unadvisedly thinke) which is in Arabia the happie, and far from China," etc. "The best rubarbe is that which is brought from China fresh and newe," etc.

WATT² gives a Persian term *rēvande-hindi* ("Indian rhubarb") for *Rheum emodi*. Curiously, in Hindustānī this is called *Hindi-rēvand činī* ("Chinese rhubarb of India"), and in Bengālī *Bangla-rēvan činī* ("Chinese rhubarb of Bengal"), indicating that the Chinese product was preëminently in the minds of the people, and that the Himalayan rhubarbs were only secondary substitutes.

10. Abu Mansur³ mentions under the Arabic name *ratta* a fruit called "Indian hazel-nut" (*bunduq-i hindī*), also Chinese *Salsola kali*. It is the size of a small plum, contains a small blackish stone, and is brought from China. It is useful in chronic diseases and in cases of poisoning, and is hot and dry in the second degree. This is *Sapindus mukorossi*, in Chinese *wu* (or *mu*)-*hwan-tse* 無 (or 木) 患子 (with a number of synonymes), the seeds being roasted and eaten.

11. Arabic *suk*, a drug composed of several ingredients, according to Ibn Sina, was originally a secret Chinese remedy formed with *amlaj* (Sanskrit *āmalaka*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, the emblic myrobalan).⁴ It is the 菴摩勒 *an-mo-lo*, **an-mwa-lak*, of the Chinese.⁵ In Persian it is *amala* or *amula*.

12. Persian *guli xairā* (*xairū*) is explained as Chinese and Persian hollyhock (*Althæa rosea*).⁶ This is the *šu k'wei* 蜀葵 ("mallow of Se-č'wan") of the Chinese, also called *žuñ k'wei* ("mallow of the Žuñ"). It is the common hollyhock, which STUART⁷ thinks may have been originally introduced into China from some western country.

13. Ibn al-Baitār⁸ speaks of a "rose of China" (*ward sīni*), usually called *nistrīn*. According to Leclerc, this is a malvaceous plant. In Persian we find *gul-čīnī* ("rose of China"), the identification of which,

¹ The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes, p. 317 (London, 1597).

² Dictionary, Vol. VI, p. 486.

³ ACHUNDOW, Abu Mansur, p. 74.

⁴ E. SEIDEL, Mechithar, p. 215.

⁵ *Pen ts'ao kan mu*, Ch. 30, p. 5 b; *Fan yi min yi tsi*, Ch. 8, p. 1. STUART (Chinese Materia Medica, p. 421) wrongly identifies the name with *Spondias amara*.

⁶ STEINGASS, Persian Dictionary, p. 1092.

⁷ Chinese Materia Medica, p. 33.

⁸ LECLERC, Traité des simples, Vol. III, pp. 369, 409.