and some exquisite yellow and red *Ranunculi* from Kefr Hauwâr, near Damascus.

Of the flora of Anti-Lebanon and Lebanon itself I saw nothing. Snow, rain, wind, and mist prevailed during our stay in that region—the only bad weather we experienced during our journey.

I will therefore conclude with the wish that any reader of the above notes, contemplating such a journey, may be blessed with as good health, and may receive as much real enjoyment from it, as did at the time, and still does, the writer.

On a new Dye-wood of the genus *Cudranea*, from East Tropical Africa. By JOHN KIRK, M.D., F.L.S.

[Read March 2, 1865.]

WHEN on the Zambesi, at the village of Sena, my attention was first drawn to a climbing shrub of the genus *Cudranea*, whose edible fruit had somewhat the flavour of an insipid custard-apple. The near botanical affinity between this and the fustic dye-wood led me to inquire after its stem. Difficulty was found in obtaining specimens of sufficient thickness; however, after some search, a piece with mature heart-wood of an inch diameter was procured. This, with cloth previously mordanted in alum, gave a light-yellow colour, which resisted the action of soap. Although convinced of the value of this dye, the small size of the bush on the Zambesi classed it among the curiosities of science of no commercial value. I was therefore pleased, on a visit to the Rovuma, to find this plant, eight degrees nearer the equator, a large shrub, whose thick stems entwined the forest-trees, and contained a cylinder of deep red heart-wood, 5 inches in diameter. Specimens were brought home, from which the present report has been made by one practically acquainted with these matters.

Our examination of the Rovuma was strictly limited to the valley. If this plant be as abundant and equal in size on the table-land (200 feet elevation) as in the valley, its collection would be to the natives a matter of some importance.

As before said, the plant is a *Cudranea*, and, I believe, an undescribed species. The bark of the old stems is thick; it consists of many layers, deeply rent longitudinally. The inner bark and white wood abounds in a yellowish milky juice: the heart-wood is of different shades of red, very heavy, and full of pores.

The small branches are armed with strong spines, each bearing a few leaves; these are shining, ovate or oblong.

The heads of male flowers are the size of a pea, white, and deciduous; the female form a compound fruit, the size of a walnut, uneven on the surface, of a yellowish cream-colour, with seeds imbedded in an agreeable pulp. By the natives of Sena it is named "Pambuku." Specimens of plant and wood are in the National Herbarium at Kew, also at Edinburgh.

The following is the report obtained for me by James Young, Esq., of Limefield:—

"I have just got the report upon the sample of wood. It gives a colouring-matter somewhat between quercitron-bark and fustic. There was not sufficient to make as many trials as they could have wished; but it would be worth at this time £6 10s. per ton.

"Quercitron-bark at present is £7, and fustic £6 per ton.

"A ton of the wood would be required to ascertain properly its worth.

"Messrs. Harter will give above price for a ton, and afterwards give full reports upon it.

"It might of course be more valuable than either bark or fustic, when tried on a large scale.

(Signed)

"JOHN THOM."

On the Palms of East Tropical Africa.

By JOHN KIRK, M.D., F.L.S.

[Read March 16, 1865.]

THE Palms of the lands lately explored on the Zambesi, Nyassa, and Rovuma are few in number; they belong to the six genera *Cocos*, *Elais*, *Phoenix*, *Borassus*, *Raphia*, and *Hyphæne*.

In no other group of plants is the difference which exists between the flora of the African continent and the adjacent islands of Madagascar, the Mascarene, Comoro, and Seychelles more marked than in this; and none illustrates better the uniformity of vegetation over the whole of that continent itself within the tropics.

1. *COCOS NUCIFERA*, L.

On the Mozambique coast the cocoa-nut is grown; but nowhere in that district is it an object of commercial importance.