infant smiles, whether when asleep or awake seems immaterial, it is a sure and certain sign that the father will become wealthy. The Cantonese also say of children's smiles

一笑家門開 yat, siú' ká mun hoi;
二笑發大財 yí siú' fát, tái ts'oi.

At the first smile (or laugh) the family door opens (to prosperity); at the second, great wealth is amassed.

J. D. B.

Bats.—A common notion amongst the Cantonese is that the touching of one of these soft hairy creatures will cause baldness. I first heard this when a boy, an old Amah warning me that if I touched one of these pretty little creatures without washing my hands immediately afterwards I was to lose my hair. I most carefully, under her instructions, proceeded to wash my hands, but unfortunately the precautionary measures taken proved of no avail, as in after years my hair fell out thick and fast.

An idea of this kind probably protects the bats from some of the cruelty that young John Chinaman is fond of inflicting on creatures that fly and creep.

A Chinese gentleman informs me that when a youngster his grandmother stopped him when chasing one of these 'flying rats,' as the Chinese term them, telling him that he must not do so as they would injure his eyes. His explanation of the cause of this is as follows:—The bats have a fine lime amongst their fur. If a bat is knocked down with a stick, the natural impulse of a boy is to pick it up. The lime then gets on his fingers, he rubs his eyes with his hand and he becomes blind.

The query arises in one's mind whether, supposing any injury of the eyes to have occurred after bat hunting, it is not more probable that chasing the creatures about amongst some ruined building they may not either have got some lime on them or flapped it down into the eyes of their pursuer.

J. D. B.

Mr. Parker's Canton Plants (*China Review*, Vol. XV. p. 104).—Being possessed of a Peking Flora, founded on enumerations by Bunge, Maximovicz and others, and enriched with identifications in Chinese by Dr Bushell, (whose authority is, I hope, at least as good as that of three rustics or an equivalent number of native apothecaries,) I venture to contribute some remarks on the paper cited above. It seems most convenient to arrange them under Mr. Parker's own numbers.

1 and 2. The Chinese names have surely become transposed; in Peking 蒜 certainly represents *Allium sativum* L. *Agapanthus* belongs to the sub-order *Hemerocallideæ*, quite a different branch from the onion tribe.

3. Also called 'pea-nut.' The Chinese name here given is a contraction of 落花生, the name in use at Peking.

5. Peking name 栢樹.

6. „ „ 毛桃兒 and 楮樹.

7. The leaves of this plant are largely used for adulterating Canton tea. They are imported for the purpose from Kiung-chow; thence the plant is called in Hainan 根茶. The name 木瓜 is applied in the North to the quince, *Cydonia chinensis*.

13. It is indeed singular if the Chinese name for *Clerodendron fragrans* is 'stinking jasmine.' It is much more likely that *C. foetidum*, Bge, should be so designated.

18. This Chinese name is applied to the grape-vine in the North.

19. 蓪草 at Peking represents *Akebia quinata*.

27. The walnut is called 核桃 at Peking.

35. *Oxalis corniculata* L. is no more the wood-sorrel than a primrose is a cowslip. It has a yellow flower, while wood-sorrel *O. acetosella* L. (found in Manchuria) has a white blossom with pink veins.

40. Known as 蒜繩菜 at Peking.

43. „ „ 葱蒜 „ „

46. „ „ 大荳 „ „