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$_5$ siu^3 ka$_1$ mun hoi$_1$;
二笑發大財 yi^2 siu^3 fat$_6$ tai^2 ts'oi$_4$.

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. „ „ 蔥蒜 „ „

46. „ „ 大荳 „ „

49. Known as 葡萄 at Peking (Cf. No. 18).

73. Hypericum Ascyron L. is in Peking called 金絲桃.

79. Mirabilis dichotoma L. is in Peking called 鬼子茉莉: its 'vulgar name' is 'Marvel of Peru' or 'Four o'clock.'

84. Does Mr. Parker really mean that Bunge's white pine is known at Canton? I fancied it peculiar to Peking.

85. The name given under 181, 車前子, is that used at Peking for this plant; its 'vulgar name' should be given as greater plantain, ribwort plantain or waybread, in order that it may not be confounded with the banana.

90. *Scirpus tuberosus* is not a water chesnut but a bulrush.

93. Called 山藥荳 at Peking.

99. *X. nitidum*, D. C., is called 花椒樹 at Peking.

100. Vulgarly known as ginger.

101. *A. blitum* L. is called 莧菜 at Peking.

107. Hemp is called 小蔴 as a general term; the male flower is known as 枲 *hsi* and the female as 苴 *chü*.

108. At Peking 栗樹.

129. Peking name 拉拉秧.

145. *Stillingia sebifera* is the wax tree according to Hooker.

146. 'Buffalo nut' is unknown to me. *Trapa bicornis*, as also *T. natans*, is the water chesnut or calthrop.

150. Peking name 酸棗.

160. Improperly called water chesnut.

168. Called at Peking 密蘿松 'vulgar names,' cypress vine and Fouchow creeper.

177. The Chinese name here given is at Peking applied to the *Rhododendron leucanthum*, Bge.

186. The elder is known at Peking as 公道老兒.

188. For the sake of comparison I note that at Peking *Polygonum orientale* is called 狗尾巴花.

199. The Chinese name given is applied to *Jasminum floridum*, Bge., at Peking.

206. *Asparagus gibbus*, Bge., receives at Peking the name 龍鬚草.

212. At Peking called 奏椒.

217. According to Kanghi 薏苡仁 (the seeds of Coix).

238. 珍珠花 is the name, at Peking, of a species of *Spirala*. The second name here given resembles in meaning that applied in the North to the spindle tree (Euonymus), viz. 明開夜合.

240. Peking name 橡椀樹.

242. „ 絺葵.

252. In Peking 白花菜 is *Cleome pentaphylla*.

253. Peking name 黃龍牙.

272. At Peking this name is given to a wild vine, *Ampelopsis humulifolia*, Bge. (*vitis heterophylla*, Thunb.)

280. 金銀花 is the Peking name of the honeysuckle.

286. *P. dichotoma*, Led., is at Peking called 馬蜘花.

290. Better written 蘋果.

291. *P. termifolia* is at Peking called 遠志.

293. *P. orientale* is at Peking called 狗尾巴花. *P. Thunbergii* S. et Z. is called 苦蕎麥, i.e., bitter buckwheat.

296. Peking name 虎耳草.

My Pekingese names for Nos. 16, 25, 29, 41, 47, 59, 75, 80, 84, 94, 109, 111, 133, 148, 181, 184, 185, 195, 196, 209, 231, 232, 249, agree with those given by Mr. Parker.

I have many other Chinese names of plants which have been identified in the Peking Flora referred to, but until I have had time to consult duly qualified rustics and apothecaries, I do not venture to obtrude them on the notice of readers of the *China Review*.

G. M. H. Playfair.

The Style of the Li Ki.—It is now possible to discuss old Chinese style in a way that could not be done before Dr. Legge's