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ALLIGATOR PEAR, AVOCADO, AHUACATE?

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When in 1530 Cortez landed in Mexico the Ahuacate was a popular fruit among the natives, and had been known to them under that name many centuries. And it was so much prized by the conquering Spaniards that it was soon introduced in Santo Domingo, Cuba and the other islands which still retain the name of West Indies. In the British Colonies the name of Ahuacate became corrupted into Alligator pear, and in the French islands into Poire d'Avocat and Avocatier. In our own times this French corruption gave birth to the name of Avocado, which has no meaning, and no historical base. Why, in the name of common sense, must not the name of Ahuacate be retained? It is the aboriginal name and it is no more difficult to pronounce than Avocado.

In South America, where the tree is not as common and not so popular as in Mexico, it bears the name of Palta, said to be originated from a locality in Peru, where it was first brought into notice. A more hardy form, with rather small fruits, is known in Chile under the name of Paltita that is "small palta."

Quite recently somebody has fancied to change the old respected and expressive name of *Persea Gratissima* of Linnaeus into *Persea Americana*, evidently a misnomer, there being several other species of the genus *Persea* which are native of the American continent. One cannot protest strongly enough against this modern craziness of creating new names for old things.