

content of the cellulose. Fleck also determined the "holocellulose" fraction by the method of Van Beckum and Ritter;¹⁰ this fraction, 61.0 per cent., purports to represent the entire non-lignin constituents of the cell-wall, and indeed does accord reasonably well with an estimate of 32.0 per cent. for lignin, allowing also for ash and extractives.

Further examination of "cellulose" fractions obtained in various ways seem to be desirable and a critical examination of methods of preparation. It seems safe to say, however, that the cellulose content of coconut shells is lower than that of most woods.

Boswell⁸ noted that the cellulose separated from Brazil nut-shells was obtained as a hard mass whatever method of drying was used, and the writer has made a similar observation on cellulose derived from coconut shells, which was always obtained as a hard horny mass.

(iv) Discussion.—Qualitatively, coconut shells resemble, in composition, the hard woods, but they have higher contents of lignin, total pentosans and pentosan in cellulose, and lower contents of cellulose. The methoxyl content does not differ greatly from those of many woods. The nature of the products obtained by dry distillation (described in a subsequent article) show considerable quantitative differences from those of woods, and it is likely that these differences point to features in the composition of the raw material not indicated by existing analytical methods. It is believed that further investigation of the various fractions—lignin, "cellulose", pentosan, etc.—would yield results of interest in the chemistry of cell-wall substances. This is probably also true of other nut-shells, few of which have been studied (see Refs. 7, 8, 4), but which present several novel points of interest.

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INDIA'S POST-WAR INDUSTRY

THE question of capital re-equipment of Indian industry was raised by Sir Azizul Haque, Commerce Member, in his opening address to the meeting of the Post-War Reconstruction Policy Committee on Trade and Industry, on Thursday, the 21st October 1943. "The Government of India", he said, "have by no means lost sight of this aspect of the problem which the continuation of the war, with a consequent continuation of excessive wear and tear on plant, and increased difficulty of replacement, has made more acute. In so far as those machineries and plants have to be imported from abroad, I am convinced that no time should be lost in making an aggregate estimate of India's total post-war requirements. It will be necessary, without any avoidable delay, that the Governments or organisations of exporting countries must know the approximate extent of India's post-war requirements."

All industries are asked to take up this question as soon as possible so that the Government of India might take the necessary steps in that direction. It was the duty of the Government to assist new industry and new enterprise, but the Government must also look to trade and industry to state what were likely to

be the scope and prospects of such new industries. "In the exigencies of war conditions industries are necessarily organised, mobilised, and shaped to meet the exigencies of war production, but it is time for us to try to plan the future, assess the place of these war industries in post-war conditions, and give our thoughts to other human and social aspects of life, and conditions of industrial labour so that men may not decay with a mere accumulation of wealth."

Therefore, Sir Azizul added, the Government were submitting to industries for their consideration a draft questionnaire which would give them the information they sought. He also emphasised that the questionnaire was a purely provisional document, and if the industries thought that some other method of getting the necessary information was to be preferred, they could give their views. The Committee decided the terms of a questionnaire to be addressed to industries to elicit factual data on which definite plans for post-war developments could be based. It also discussed India's trade policy in the post-war period, and the future of India's industrial policy.