

WEALTH OF INDIA- QUOTABLE QUOTES

Raw Materials Series

- *I have found this dictionary fascinating and it has opened out visitors of thought to me. I have no doubt that this book produced by many scholars and experts and other much labour, will be of great value to the builders of new India."*

Jawaharlal Nehru

- Producing an up-to-date Dictionary of Raw Materials and Industrial Products under the auspices of CSIR is necessary.

Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar
FRS, First Director General of CSIR (1942-1954)

- "The work appears to be the result of a painstaking review of the literature and compilation of statistics. The books are excellent for reference, general reading, and teaching and should be in all libraries, universities and other scientific institutions."

Science, 1951, **114**, 49.

- "We have no doubt that the world's planners will find in these volumes a mine of exact information of great value to them as well as others whose interests are less urgent."

Tropical Agriculture, 1951, **28**, 34

- "This book is an excellent continuation of previously issued volumes. The completed series will be a useful reference in all libraries, universities and scientific organizations, and an indispensable source for specialists on subject matter relating to India, and indeed, to many other tropical or sub-tropical regions.

"The Professional Geographer, Set. 1960.

- "The present volume in the series maintains the high standard as a work of reference and for general reading set by previous volumes.

It is profusely illustrated with 179 black and white photographs and diagrams as well as several coloured plates, and refers extensively to the relevant literature on the various topics. An index of names in Indian languages, trade and regional names and common English names is included."

Tropical Science, 1960, **2**, 168.

- "Major articles on plants and the number of pages devoted to each are: *Lichens* (10). *Linum* (22), *Lycopersicon* (11), *Malus* (16), *Mangifera* (21), and *Musa* (23). India has an exceedingly diversified flora, both wild and cultivated. Most of the major and minor cultivated plants of the world are grown somewhere in that vast country and have been, or will be, treated in *The Wealth of India*. It is basically for this reason that *The Wealth* is such an outstanding reference work, one that can be whole-heartedly recommended to anyone-anywhere—who is interested in useful plants."

Economic Botany, 1964, **18**, 182.

- “...The series is essentially a modern treatment of George Watt’s A Dictionary of the Economic Products of India”, 1889-1893, 6 vols; very large amount of information from an enormous literature is gested in this modern account. The nomenclature seems to be up to date”.

Blumea, 1970, **18**, 150

- “...The standards of scholarship and of presentation are very high and the bibliography copious... “The Wealth of India” held in the east African Herbarium are found to be of the greatest value whenever there is an economic enquiry to deal with...”.

East. Afr. Agric. For. J., 1974, **39**, 348

- “...The *Wealth of India* remains the outstanding currently-being-published encyclopaedia of economic botany...information on most of the world’s major and many of its minor economic plants is included in this work, which will be found invaluable by anyone interested in ants useful to man...”

Econ Bot., 1974, **28**, 100

- “....Yet another splendid volume of the `Wealth of India Series`. This work, the direct descendant of Sir Geogre Watts’ classic `Dictionary of the Economic Products of India’ has been coming out since the 1940’s and is dispensable to anyone concerned or interested in theThe volume covers Rhumus to Soymida and in between are articles on Rhus, Ricinus, Saccharum, Sesbania and Sorghum. For Example, to say nothing of rhinoceros, road metal and snakes.

Watt’s Dictionary included a great deal of information on the traditional uses of natural materials in India. The Wealth of India while not neglecting these aspects makes use of the vast amount of research which has gone on in this century and pays a lot of attention to the chemical properties of plants. It also gives agronomic details and modern uses.

....An important feature, which should be mentioned, is the wealth of references given - as truly, useful aspect.”

Kew Bull. (Advance copy)

- “I have told hundreds of people that the first books I would buy, were my library lost or destroyed, would be the Wealth of India. Hence I have two treasured sets of the first 11 volumes, one at the office and one at home.”

*Dr. James Duke, USDA letter to the editor, Wealth of India
Proc. Indian Natn. Sci. Acad. B36 No.3 pp. 139-150,1 997*

Industrial Products series

- “The general scheme is to give a brief description of the industrial product, its properties and uses...Reference is made to the manufacture of the industrial product in countries outside India, but much fuller particulars are naturally given about its manufacture in India. All this information is supplemented by statistics which show the production and consumption in India and the trade in the products. We look forward with keen anticipation to the completion of what will undoubtedly be a standard work.”–

- *Chemistry and Industry*, 1952, 226.

- “It is undoubtedly a very valuable and useful reference book to students, scientists, industrialists, as well as the inquisitive, educated laymen in quest of knowledge.....It is commendable that the vast literature available in every aspect of each of the industries dealt with is so effectively and ably condensed and presented in a most readable and interesting manner, without taking recourse to highly technical jargon. There is very useful and exhaustive index at the end of the publication.”

- – *Indian Minerals*, 1961, **16**, 62.

- “This volume maintains the high standard of the previous volumes and the Chief Editor and his Assistants are to be congratulated on an exacting task well done. The reproduction of the plates, both coloured and black and white, as well as line figures, is particularly good.”– *Science Progress*, 1963, **51**, 336.

- “.....A mine of information for students, scientists, industrialists and laymen. The book produces a wealth of knowledge of particular interest to the industrialists....This perhaps is the only publication of its kind available in the country and CSIR deserves praise for the production of this fascinating dictionary”.

The East, Pharma, 1966, **7**(99), 27

- “...The CSIR deserves praise for bringing out the series of volumes – The Wealth of India a fascinating dictionary of Indian raw materials and industrial products. It is perhaps the only publication of its kind available in the country....”

Capital, February 10, 1972

- “....The industrial products mentioned in this series cover a broad spectrum....Although the ambivalence between many product areas may strike the reader as being at variance with normal practice, once he becomes used to the style of presentation he has the key to valuable data concerning Indian raw materials and their processing techniques - data that are of immense value to both the layman and specialists just alike. In order to comprehend fully the value and the usefulness of the publication, believed to be the first of its kind anywhere, it is necessary simply to go through the chapters on refractories and rare earths. An interesting introduction to the metallurgy of rare earths and the preparation of the metals from them is given. The refrigeration, air conditioning, rice milling, and rubber industry are similarly covered. The Wealth of India could serve as an example for other developing countries.

–UNIDO *Ind.Res.Develop.News*, 1973, **6**(4), 31.

Volume 5 carried on the high standard of excellence set by its four predecessors. It contains 380 entries, of which 370 are on plants, 7 on animals, and 3 on minerals. Major articles, with the number of pages spanned by each are: Helianthus (11), Hevea (30),

Hibiscus (24), Hordeum (15), Indigofera (12), Insects (53), Ipomoea (18), Iron Ores (15), and Jasminum (14). The articles review much pertinent literature—data of universal interest and use and contain many original observations on Indian aspects of the various subjects”–

Economic Botany, 1960, **14**, 159.

“The present volume in the series maintains the high standard as a work of reference and for general reading set by previous volumes.

“It is profusely illustrated with 179 black and white photographs and diagrams as well as several coloured plates, and refers extensively to the relevant literature on the various topics. An index of names in Indian languages, trade and regional names and common English names is included”–

Tropical Science, 1960, **2**, 168.

“The Editorial Committee of the volume of The Wealth of India and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, are to be congratulated on maintaining the high standard of previous volumes. The latest volume marks the completion of the first half of the series, which now has a total of 1,535 pages of text. It is pleasing to note that steps have been taken to expedite further volumes”–

Tropical Agriculture Trinidad, 1960, **37**, 156.

“This book is an excellent continuation of previously issued volumes. The completed series will be a useful reference in all libraries, universities, and scientific organizations, and indispensable source for specialists on subject matter relating to India and indeed to many other tropical or subtropical regions”–

The Professional Geographer, Sept, 1960.

The information given is authoritative and reasonably up-to-date, and the entries are lengthy and comprehensive. They contain numerous references to relevant scientific literature and are well illustrated. Each of the later volumes has a good index including Indian, regional and trade names. The CSIR has set a remarkably high standard in this work, and it cannot be too highly recommended to all who have to do with tropical crops and crop products “–

Hort. Abstr., 1963, **33**, 454).

The section of the Wealth of India contains useful information especially on plant products.

This volume as with its predecessors, should find a place in all libraries as an outstanding work of reference on the topics it covers’-[

Flavour Ind., 1970, **1**(4), 225]

This volume covers entries from the letters Ph-Re of this Cyclopaedia, which next to entries on plants (457 in all) contains also entries on minerals and animal products.

General information is given on a fairly large number of genera which are potential economic plants for India. Of those genera of which species possessing useful properties (food plants, oils, medicines, etc.) are native or cultivated in India each species is cited with pertaining main literature, vernacular names, a sketchy description

and extensive information on its useful properties and utilization with mention of pertaining sources. The nomenclature seems to be up-to-date.

The work is very well printed on glossy paper and is indispensable for those who seek information on useful tropical plants. Together it is a worthy modern account of Watt's initial attempt'-

Blumea, 1970, 18(1), 150

Vol. VIII of the Raw Materials portion of THE WEALTH OF INDIA, which follows its predecessor after an interval of two years and more, keeps the high standard of the series.

Several of the genera dealt with in this volume cover products of common use or occurrence after furnish the layman with detailed and helpful information about familiar things, regarding the original procuring, and uses of which his knowledge limited and vague.

The index giving the common English name as well as those in the principal Indian vernacular and also trade names makes reference easy for its layman

J Bombay Nat. Hist Soc, 1970, 67(1), 100.

The volumes in the 'Raw Materials' section contain, arranged alphabetically under the key word mainly descriptions of economic plants, along with entries concerning animals and minerals. The botanical information given is fairly extensive references to the literature, synonym, brief descriptions and indication of habitat and distribution are provided, in addition to ample information of economic use, chemical properties, wood anatomy etc. The black and white illustrations, especially the drawings of plants, are generally quite good photographs of general habit and of the economically significant parts often add considerably to the information contained in the text.

Many cross references add to the usefulness of this broadly conceived dictionary. The entire publication shows considerable care in preparation and complication

Taxon, 1970, 19, 811.

This is another volume of this scholarly and extremely well executed dictionary. It contains elaborate treatment of many plant species, herbs as well as trees, of which the short descriptions are accompanied by data on photochemistry, anatomy, pests and by industrial data. Our congratulations with the progress in printing this mine of information

v. SL-Flora Malesiana Bulletin, 1974, 17, 2232.

The volume is well printed and produced and the illustrations are usually good. An important feature, which should be mentioned, is the wealth of references given—a truly useful aspect

Kew Bull, 1974, 29(4), 236.

"The magnitude of the task is indicated by the fact that...the present revised first volume has a bounteous 513 pages for the first alphabet alone.....There is a wealth of information from a stupendous number of books and periodicals. There are many innovations resulting in a better coverage and presentation of facts. The Publications &

Information Directorate of CSIR has to be congratulated for bringing out this valuable and useful compendium with its Wealth of Information”

Current Science, 1987, 56, 627.