FROM THE INDIAN FORESTER – ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

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MYRABOLANS

It was a happy thought which struck a Calcutta merchant – a shipper of myrabolans – of removing the husk from the stones, and, as a saving on freight, exporting the former only as a better tanning product than the entire fruit. It was questioned whether the stones which formed more than half the weight of the fruit could be rejected. The analyses at the Indian Museum show the superior tanning value of the husk, and the worthless quality of the stones. Two kinds of myrabolans were tested:

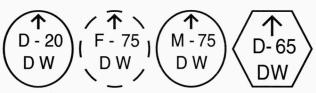
			Extract.	Tannin.
Raipur myrabolan,	husk		65.0	45.8
Do.	stones		6.1	3.7
Singhbhum myrabolan,	husk		59.8	44.6
Do.	stones	· ···	7.0	4.8

This discovery will lead to large economic results as regards this export commodity. Myrabolans are used for dyeing and tanning purposes. Last year India exported 73,355 tons of those nuts. Had the worthless stones been extracted and only the valuable husks been shipped, there would have been a saving of half the freight; 36,000 tons of stones being kept on this side. Perhaps these myrabolan stones may yet be found to be of some use, as there is no such thing as waste, but these are evidently of little value for tanning purposes – [Capital.]

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