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A  
**Universal Index to Wood**

*By*  
**E. H. F. SWAIN.**

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## A UNIVERSAL INDEX TO WOOD

BY E. H. F. SWAIN

*Queensland Forest Service (Australia)*

The writer presents a system of wood identification and classification which he believes to be comprehensive enough to include all the timbers of the world.

In the present presentation of the system, the porous woods have been dealt with completely, but the non-porous and the rayless woods are only partially disposed of, their finalisation being relegated to later times, briefly because some recourse must be had to microscopic examination to conclude the classification. In the porous series, the writer has avoided steadfastly anything more cumbersome than a hand lens scrutiny.

In the system to be described the writer has abandoned definitely the ideal of a classification of woods coinciding with or parallel to the pseudo natural botanical system of today. Woods of the same botanical genus differ so much in weight, color, and structure, and woods of different genera or even family might be so similar in these respects, that a strictly botanical basis of classification appears to be out of the question.

In any case, the main purpose of wood classification is industrial, and an industrial basis of classification appears to be requisite. Whilst this industrial basis has been adopted for the Index, the closest approach to a botanical arrangement has been sought also and it may be claimed for the system here set forth that some botanical correspondence of species has been maintained within the limits of the primarily commercial arrangement. The completed list provides for some 200,000 different woods, and will bring fairly well together in their due place