

1897

A
CONCISE
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF
WORLD TIMBERS

A USEFUL WORK OF REFERENCE
FOR ALL USERS OF TIMBER
CONTAINING DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS
OF NEARLY 200 DIFFERENT TIMBERS,
WITH MACROSCOPIC IDENTIFICATIONS
OF THE WOODS IN MORE COMMON USE

BY
F. H. TITMUSS



THE TECHNICAL PRESS LTD

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PREFACE

THE science of timber technology first came into prominence largely as a result of the investigations made by American research workers in the early years of the first World War. Before this time the normal wood consumer's knowledge of his material was chiefly empirical, and the results achieved by the scientists were neither appreciated nor fully understood by the practical man.

Since that time an extensive literature has grown up regarding timber of all species. Much of it has been of a "popular" nature, but some of the most important facts regarding correct utilization and identification are dealt with in books confined to the study of woods of a specific variety or some particular geographic region. The handbooks and pamphlets issued by certain nationally constituted bodies have done much to bring this knowledge to a wider audience, but it is true to say that even more could be done in this respect.

This volume has been designed, therefore, to serve as a connecting link between the laboratory worker and the man in the workshop and to be a handy reference book for all whose work necessitates a real understanding of timber. It cannot pretend to give an exhaustive study of each wood listed, but the data has been selected on the basis of its usefulness to all types of reader.

To do this, the book has been divided into two main sections.

The first describes in brief detail the growth of the tree, the anatomical structure of wood, and the features that lead to its correct identification. This introductory section is of considerable importance and should be read with care to gain the full benefit from the entries given for specific timbers in the second part of the book. A more detailed study of the anatomical structure of wood and its identification than it has been possible to give here can be found in works by the following writers: Baterder, Boulger, Brown and Panshin, Chalk and Rendle, Charpentier, Desch, Groom, Jeffrey, Jones, Kerner and Oliver, Koehler, McElhanney, Sargent, Stone. These authors' works are listed in the Bibliography.

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