

for unlimited encouragement if they can show themselves worthy of it.

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THE FOOD VALUE OF TWO COMMON MOLLUSCS FOUND NEAR PAMBAN AND THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF THEIR SHELLS*

Two varieties of molluscs, Turban shells (*Turbo margaritaceus*) and wedge shells (*Donax cuneatus*) occur on the shores of the Madras Presidency, and their flesh are commonly eaten by fisherfolk when other sea-fish are not available.

poorer in P. We, therefore, feel that there is sufficient justification for popularising these molluscs as food as good as fish.

The shells of molluscs are sometimes used for making quicklime. An analysis of the shells of these molluscs are given in Table II.

TABLE II
Composition of Shells of Molluscs in Madras (per cent.)

Particulars	H ₂ O	Lim. as CaCO ₃	SO ₄	Insolubles	Organic matter
Shell of <i>Turbo</i> ..	1.00	93.02	0.11	0.237	5.98
Shells of <i>Donax</i> ..	0.54	94.83	1.32	0.161	3.17

The high CaCO₃ content provides the main sources of a high quality lime. The crushed

TABLE I
Analyses of Mollusc in Madras

Local name (Tamil)	Scientific name	Edibility %	Average size	H ₂ O %	Proteins %	Fat %	Ash %	P ₂ O ₅ %	CaO %	Iron mgm. 100 gm.
Nathai ..	<i>Turbo margaritaceus</i> (Turban shells)	25	3×2 cm.	74.78	17.59	0.25	4.72	0.55	2.69	31.83
Vazhi matti	<i>Donax cuneatus</i> (wedge shells)	25	2×1 cm.	76.45	13.13	0.09	4.84	0.40	2.65	32.0

Data on the food value of these edible molluscs are given here. The edible flesh of the molluscs from the shores of the Krusadai Island, were analysed according to A.O.A.C. methods.¹

Phosphorus (Ammonium Molybdate Volumetric method), Calcium (McCrudden's Permanganate method), and Iron (Elvehjem-Kennedy method), were also estimated.

The figures show that these molluscs compare in food value very favourably with fish, and are richer in Ca and Fe, though somewhat

shells may be utilised as poultry feed because of its high calcium content.

Fisheries Section,
Dept. of Industries and Commerce,
West-Hill, Madras, S. T. CHARI,
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1. Methods of Analysis, by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemist, 1945 - Washington.

INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION

THE General Assembly of the International Pharmaceutical Federation was held at Zurich on the 25th, 26th and 27th of August 1947. About 250 delegates from various countries attended. The President of the Federation, Dr. Madsen (Copenhagen), presided.

The activities of the first day included the business meeting of the Bureau of the Federation and a meeting of the Directors of Drug Control Laboratories. On the second day, after the Presidential Address by Dr. Madsen, certain matters of special interest to Pharmacy such as International Methods for the Analysis of Pharmaceutical Specialties, were discussed. A proposition to start a new International pharmaceutical periodical the aim of which was "to publish for international information articles which had previously been published in national periodicals only" aroused great interest and discussion. The reason for this proposition was stated to be that "the scientific workers of smaller countries have been at a disadvantage because their publications only reached a limited circle". As an argument

against the proposition it was contended that well-established journals would be unwilling to allow their publications to be reproduced. No final decision was taken on this question at the Conference.

Scientific papers that were read and discussed included one on "Some Alkaloid-glycosides", by Dr. Caspari, one on "Local Anaesthetics", by Prof. Buchi, on "Saponins", by Dr. Ruyssen, on "The Polarographic Determination of Morphine", by Dr. Rasmussen, and on "Aromatic Drugs", by Dr. Girardet.

Visits to the Pharmaceutical Department of the E.T.H., Zurich, the Pharmacy of the Zurich Cantonal Hospital and to the laboratories and factories of Ciba, Roche, Sandoz and Geigy at Basel on the 29th constituted other scientific activities, while the social side was catered for by a banquet on the 27th night and an excursion to the Swiss Alps on the 28th.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association was represented at the Assembly by Dr. S. Rangaswami and Mr. S. B. Rao.

S. RANGASWAMI.