

"The bony or ivorylike coating of the seed is utilized by the jewelers of the city of Diamantina, who, with great taste and skill, from this substance make buttons, rings, watch chains, and other ornaments. The greatest industrial value of the seed, however, is found in the production of oil.

"The kernel which is covered with a thick shell, contains about 60 per cent of excellent oil which is as well suited for the finer products of industry as for table oil. The pulp, or the substance which lies between the epicarp and the endocarp, by reason of its greater volume, predominates in the nuts and is the part of the fruit which produces the largest yield of oil, and, naturally, it has a more extensive use. This oil, however, is greatly inferior in quality to that obtained from the kernel. It may be purified, however, and rendered quite useful. On some of the fazendas [plantations] in Minas, a kind of oil is manufactured from the macauba palm, by a very primitive process, but the product thus obtained is offensive in appearance and has a very disagreeable odor due to the impurities. It is sold generally for a few cents a liter.

"In this small industry only the pulp which has passed through a process of fermentation is used. The fruits are placed together in holes made in the ground and covered with a layer of straw. They are kept in these holes for ten or twelve days and are watered constantly. After the hull has been removed, the pulp is partially crushed in a kind of mill leaving uninjured the innermost kernel which contains the finest oil. By this process the yield is scarcely more than 5 to 8 per cent. There is, however, in the city of Bello Horizonte, a factory which makes use of the entire nut, obtaining in this way a yield of 15 to 17 per cent and a product of much better quality.

"By the common process, the oil obtained is utilized in making laundry soap, and this may be greatly improved by the addition of a small quantity of resin which gives to the soap the proper consistency and neutralizes the disagreeable odor. Properly handled, this oil may be used to advantage in the manufacture of fine toilet soaps.

"Each tree produces about 80 liters [85 qts.] of nuts a year, and, according to experiment, an acre of ground planted in macauba palms would give a total yield of \$100.00 not counting the residue which may be used as a combustible or as a fertilizer." (Brazil, Suas Riquezas Naturaes, Suas Industrias, vol. 1, pt. 2, p. 198.)