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Coconut Trees in the White Sands at Palm Beach, Florida

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Coconut Trees in the White Sands at Palm Beach, Florida, Lucius Marion Lampton, MD Historical Images Collection, Archives and Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University

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(25)-5700-Cocanut trees in the white sands at Palm Beach,
Florida.
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This is at Palm Beach, on the lonely island that forms the eastern boundary of the inlet of the Atlantic known as Lake Worth. The East Coast R.R. brings tourists down to a point of the mainland opposite the island, and nature and fashion together make this an immensely popular winter resort. We are almost as far south as Nassau, and the warm current of the Gulf Stream, just off-shore, keeps the air here deliciously balmy during months when the northern states have their fiercest blizzards.

It seems almost incredible that such vigorous and prolific growth should take place as you see it here, right in the white sands, but these coconut palms thrive on this seemingly scanty diet. You can see for yourself how full the trees hang with their crop of tight-packed coconut husks. Each husk that you see there in that big cluster was originally part of a flower, blossoming in the shelter of a leaf-stalk. The construction of each pistillate flower provided for the formation of three seeds, but the trees have a way of concentrating energy and developing only one seed from each blossom. These are the favored seeds that you see hanging there now, grown big and round and juicy. Everybody knows what one of the seeds (nuts) looks like; but not everybody realizes that the firm, sweet white pulp and the watery "milk" inside are actually the tree's provision for feeding its own young. Each one of those nuts contains the embryo of a new tree, and if you planted it or left it for nature to care for, you would find the newly germinating plant absorbing that "meat" and "milk" for its own nourishment during the interval of time before it becomes able to feed on sand, water and Palm Beach air, like this robust parent.

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Cocoanut Trees in the White Sands of Florida.

Cocotiers dans les Sables Blanches, Floride.

Кокоснуцъпалмен in den „White Sands“ in Florida.

Cocoteros en las Arenas Blancas de Florida.

Kokonötträd i Hvitsanden, Florida.

Кокосовыя деревья въ бѣломъ пескѣ въ
Флоридѣ.