

the French chemists who examined the new substance reached conclusions that are startlingly similar in many points to those reached by modern rubber chemists. Fresneau, for instance, thought it was a kind of condensed resinous oil; the name now used is polyterpene. To prevent it from sticking he used Spanish white, ashes or dust.

"La Condamine induced other explorers to search for rubber and learned before he died in 1775 that it had been found in the Isle de France and in Madagascar. Nevertheless, the only practical commercial use found for the caoutchouc in that century was as an eraser of pencil marks, which led to Priestley's christening it by the name it has retained in English, "india rubber"."

T. F. C.

How to Destroy Large Jungle Trees.

In clearing the jungle from an estate it is often a great source of trouble and expense to get rid of the large jungle trees. Too often does one see their stumps and roots remaining, a ready centre of fungus infection to the rubber trees just when they are beginning to bear at their best. The following note taken from the Indian Forester, May, 1920, may be of assistance to those about to clear jungle. Of course this method can only be employed whilst the tree is yet living.

"Where it is desired to destroy a tree without cutting it down, a hole is bored in the tree in a downward direction to the centre. For large trees an inch auger is used; for smaller ones $\frac{1}{2}$ inch size is large enough. For large trees 1 oz. to 2 oz. of ordinary commercial saltpetre (nitrate of potash) is used, and for smaller ones $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz. A plug is put into the hole to keep the rain from washing it out. The nitrate of potash is carried by the sap to the tips of the branches and the rootlets. If the tree is a large one, say, 2 feet or more in diameter, very little difference will be noticed in the foliage for 2 or 3 months, then the leaves begin to fall, and it assumes a bare wintry appearance. At the end of about 6 or 8 months a little brushwood is piled around the tree and lit; it will smoulder away to the remote ends of the roots, sometimes 30 feet away from the tree, leaving masses of valuable ash; the tree will fall, and when fallen it will continue to smoulder until every particle is converted into ash.—["A Hand-book of Forestry" by A. D. Webster.]"

T. F. C.