

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE RUBBER RESEARCH SCHEME

NOTE ON THE RENEWAL OF SCRAPED BARK SURFACES

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IN connection with the treatment of Brown Bast by the scraping method advised in Research Scheme Bulletin No. 48 it has been observed that bark surfaces so scraped renew at a much enhanced rate as compared with the renewal of bark surfaces after tapping. In fact, in a large number of cases where it has been found necessary to effect a scraping for Brown Bast over half the circumference of the tree, it has been observed that the thickness of the renewed bark after a period of one year from the time the surface was scraped has been greater than on the unscraped surface of the tree (tapped panel) after a period of three to four years. Again, it has been observed that the bark after such a scraping has a smoother surface and a softer consistency than the renewed bark after tapping. A sufficient number of observations have been made to satisfy the writer that the scraping method for Brown Bast could usefully be extended to bark surfaces which show extremely slow and irregular renewal. It was anticipated that the long periods of rest given to the trees during the restriction period would bring about a great improvement in the renewal of bark surfaces and in many cases this anticipation has been fulfilled. On the other hand, however, there has been a good deal of disappointment as the results even after prolonged rest have been unsatisfactory. Some reports have been received of better bark renewal having been secured from a course of manuring but other reports indicate that manurial applications have had no appreciable effect on bark renewal. It would appear, therefore, that manuring alone is not sufficient to stimulate the renewal of bark on trees which present a somewhat hide-bound condition and it is considered that in such cases the adoption of a scraping method similar to that for Brown Bast would prove beneficial.

The writer suggests that a thorough trial be given of the scraping method on trees which are known to renew their bark at a slower rate than the normal. The scraping should be carried out exactly as advised in Bulletin No. 48. The same care will be required to avoid wounding and the same precautions should be adopted throughout the treatment.