

**Natural Rubber: Biology, Cultivation, and Technology.** M. R. Sethuraj and N. M. Mathew (Editors). *Developments in Crop Science* 23. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Elsevier. \$231.00 (Dfl. 370.00). Pp. xii; 610.

There has been an ever increasing interest in research on sources of natural rubber since the Second World War when the British and Dutch plantations in Southeast Asia were overrun and occupied by the Japanese and the world's major source of this unique commodity was interrupted. It was in this period that the free world began to realize the essentiality of this product of a tropical tree.

Numerous excellent books on plantation rubber have appeared during the last few decades, an indication of how dependent the world has become on this product of a single tropical tree. This new book, edited by two Indian rubber scientists, has contributions from 38 specialists from 10 countries. It is unique in

its coverage and will long hold a place on the shelves of a wide variety of individuals interested in many aspects of the story of rubber in science, history, production, commerce, and other fields.

The editors correctly state: "We consider a single book covering all the important aspects of natural rubber from its history, production, processing to sophisticated engineering applications may not be out of place, and hence this book . . ." They have admirably fulfilled their aim.

It is impossible to single out several of the 38 contributed chapters as the most outstanding. Each of the chapters is a monograph in itself and has a bibliography of the major publications of pertinent articles and books. Together, they comprise a valuable and one of the most complete lists of publications available.

The amount of labor involved in obtaining and editing such a collection of expert contributions must have been extraordinary. The two editors are to be congratulated for putting together such a complete interdisciplinary series of outstanding contributions. And Elsevier deserves great credit in publishing this book, one of the finest in its series "Developments in Crop Science."

This book is available in the United States and Canada from Elsevier Science Publishing Co., Inc., P.O. Box 882, Madison Square Station, New York, N.Y. 10159; and from P.O. Box 1991, 1000 BZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Richard Evans Schultes  
Botanical Museum of Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138