

### SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT RUBBER.

We are all interested in information concerning this article, and the particulars embodied recently by Dr. Morris in the first of his series of two Cantor lectures on "The Sources of Commercial India-Rubber," may be of service to our readers, whether they are connected with the production of the raw materials or the importing of finished goods. Since the days when Le Condamine first described the rubber-tree of Brazil, and Don José, King of Portugal, in 1755, sent several pairs of his royal boots to Para in order that they might be covered with the waterproof "gum-elastic" the use of india-rubber has enormously increased. Besides the demand in almost every department of arts and manufacture, the rapid development of cycling, and of the use of rubber tires for carriage wheels, has added largely to the increased consumption of this interesting article. The quantity of raw caoutchouc imported into the United Kingdom in 1830 was only 23 tons. Even in the year of the accession of the Queen it was only about 200 tons. Last year it had increased to 20,000 tons—exactly a hundred fold. The present value of the imports are about £5,000,000 sterling. The total trade is probably not less than £10,000,000 sterling. More than one-third of the imports is now received from British possessions. In 1888 only about one-fifth was so received. It is estimated that the world's consumption of rubber is 60,000 tons, of the value of £14,000,000 sterling. This stupendous quantity of raw material is laboriously extracted from the milky juice of trees and shrubs belonging to three natural orders—viz., the spurge (*Euphorbiaceæ*), the nettles (*Urticacæ*), and the dogbanes (*Apocynaceæ*). These plants are distributed over nearly every part of the tropical zone—none are found in the temperate zones—the most important being found in the vast basin of the Amazon, an area almost as large as the Continent of Europe; others are found on the east and west coasts of Africa, in Assam, and the Malay Archipelago. Hitherto, the preparation of indiarubber has depended upon the crude hereditary art of a semi-savage people, the rubber-hunters who explore the depths of tropical forests and obtain the rubber milk at the sacrifice of millions of trees, which, owing to the recklessness with which they have been treated, are yearly decreasing. The result is that many localities where rubber was once abundantly obtained, have almost ceased to produce it. New sources of supply have, it is true, been found in West Africa, especially in Lagos, the Congo State, and Portuguese South-West Africa. But here also the work of destruction is rapidly going on. The collectors have to go farther and farther into the interior, and the cost of transit

is thereby greatly increased. An account was given by the lecturer of an important discovery whereby rubber could be extracted from the milk in a perfectly pure state. This is a mechanical contrivance on the principle of a cream separator. This was likely to prove of great value in the preparation of Central American and some West African rubbers, where the milk flows in an appreciable quantity and is capable of being brought in by the collectors. It would be indispensable on regular plantations of rubber trees. By such means the process of preparing the rubber could be kept under scientific control, and all injurious substances, such as proteids, and all dirt and chips excluded. The value of rubber so prepared has been shown to be increased fully 25 per cent. The rubber trees of Brazil were then exhaustively described, together with the distribution of the various species yielding the Para rubber of commerce. The exports from Para, 1897, including rubber received from Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela, amounted to 22,650 tons. Of this amount, 51 per cent. was shipped to the United States, and 38 per cent. to the United Kingdom, leaving only 11 per cent., or 2,500 tons, for all other countries. The price of Para rubber, which regulated the price of all the other sorts, has been steadily increasing since 1894, when it was 2s. 11d. per lb.; in 1895 it rose to 3s. 2d., in 1896 to 3s. 4d., in 1897 to 3s. 6½d., while the average price for the first three months of 1898 was 3s. 9½d. At the last sales on the 15th inst., it was 3s. 11d. per lb. It was, however, pointed out that these prices were below what they were in 1882 and 1883, when fine Para fetched 4s. 4d. per lb.—*Br. Trade Review*.

### ABOUT KIDNEY BUDS.

The management of the Dr. Allison Kidney Bud Med. Co. of Detroit has been re-arranged and strengthened for the coming year. Dr. Allison is still at the head of it, and associated with him are Messrs J. W. Cuthbertson and J. B. Moore. These men are both Canadians and know the trade of the country. It is the intention of the company to push their medicine in Canada. Already many druggists are handling it and realizing a handsome profit from their sales. Write to the company for particulars.

### IS THIS "ETHPHARMAL"?

The retail druggists of the country who handle Ripans' Tabules will be interested in the style of advertising popular with the makers. This advertisement is taken from the New York Sun:

R-I-P-A-N-S, 10 for 5 cts., at druggists, grocers, restaurants, saloons, news stands, general stores and barber shops. They banish pain, induce sleep, prolong life. One gives relief.

"Druggists, saloons, general stores and barber shops" is rich.—*American Druggist*.