

OBJECTIONS TO THE USE OF PARANITRO- PHENOL IN THE PREPARATION OF CREPE RUBBER

The undesirable shade of colour imparted to crepe rubber by paranitrophenol has in itself effectively prevented the adoption of this substance in the preparation of crepe rubber by Malayan producers. In Ceylon, however, where at certain times of the year atmospheric conditions are less favourable to drying than in Malaya, a few estates have used a small amount of paranitrophenol as a mould preventive in the preparation of blanket crepe.

The India Rubber Manufacturers' Association has recently drawn the attention of the London Advisory Committee for Rubber Research (Ceylon and Malaya) to certain difficulties experienced by manufacturers who purchased crepe rubber in the preparation of which paranitrophenol had been employed.

It was indicated that when such rubber is employed in manufacture the finished product will always yield a coloured extract when treated with water and that, because of this fact, the paper wrappers in which certain articles are enclosed for distribution become seriously stained if storage and other conditions are moist. The purchaser of any manufactured article naturally looks with suspicion on a product which is enclosed in a stained and unattractive wrapper and, where the article is intended for a use which concerns food or hygiene, dissatisfaction cannot but be expected to arise. Further, the article itself may be considered dangerous by health authorities who enquire into the manufacture of pale rubber goods used for feeding bottles and similar articles.

In tests made by manufacturers and by the staff of the London Advisory Committee for Rubber Research (Ceylon and Malaya) on paranitrophenol-treated crepe rubber, supplied by the Director of the Rubber Research Scheme (Ceylon), it was found that these arguments against the use of paranitrophenol were well-founded.

Malayan producers should therefore note that there are other and more serious reasons for the non-employment of paranitrophenol besides that of the colour which it imparts to the raw crepe rubber, and they are advised to continue to avoid its use.

E. R.

Kuala Lumpur,
18th June, 1934