A Sinhalese plantation cooee with strips of dried latex pulled off the incisions on the trees. This is inferior rubber, commonly used for mixing.
Ceylon's rubber plantation "No. 1." The trees were grown from plants, the original seeds of which were smuggled out of Brazil in 1876. The young plants grown from these seeds in London hothouses were not brought to Ceylon until 1882.

Protecting the rubber forest against parasites. Clouds of sulphur vapors are blown into the treetops by a modern compressor, while the attendants wear goggles to protect their eyes.
Tapping Rubber

Here is a tree that is being "rested." It has not been tapped for a week, and the cup that is otherwise hung up on a little drampipe to catch the flowing sap is now placed upside down on a peg next to the tree.

This handsome Sinhalese woman seems to have more jewels than skill. This is the way a rubber tree should not be tapped. No latex should flow over the edge of the cut.
Off to work. Sinhalese and southern Indian women workers with their tin buckets in which they collect the latex from the cups attached to each tree.

The latex, which has been solidified by the addition of acids, is pressed into sheets on large cylinders.
The coarse sheets of rubber turned out on large cylinders are hung up to dry, looking for all the world like bath towels.

Raw Rubber

After being submitted to high pressure, the rubber sheets are inspected for evenness and flaws.
Pressed rubber sheets being inspected, sorted, and packed for shipment overseas. It is very important that the thin, almost transparent sheets should have no holes or defective places. In the background we see the inevitable umbrellas of the Sinhalese workmen hung up in rows on cases.

Busy activity in front of a large rubber-warehouse in Ceylon. The bales of rubber are weighed and loaded into the lighters which carry them to ocean-going steamers.