

rubber in the United States in worth while quantities, many economic problems would still have to be solved before rubber growing could be done on a commercial scale.

Para rubber, if that should be chosen, would not have the even rainfall it has in the East Indies because Florida has distinct wet and dry seasons. With even rainfall, rubber trees may be tapped the year around, but with an uneven one, tapping would have to be seasonal. This would involve labor complications, because at certain times a great number of laborers would be needed, and at others only a few.

Even if that problem could be satisfactorily solved by secondary crops, there would still be a labor problem. East Indian rubber planters can get cheaper labor than Florida or California planters can ever hope to get. Therefore, some other means would have to be found to reduce the cost of producing the rubber in order to compete with England's East Indian product in price.

The research chemist would have to work out new means of getting the rubber out of the latex, certainly a cheaper and better way. In case one or more of the lesser known plants were to be used, for which no method of extraction is now known, a brand new method would have to be developed. On top of it all, the chemists might come along any day with a cheap synthetic rubber that would stretch as far as the best of nature's product.

NO EFFORT AT ALL FOR CHICK TO WALK

How can a newly hatched chick flutter out of its shell and run away from it, while a human infant must slowly learn to walk with many falls and bumps?

The answer is that the ability to stay right side up and well balanced is essentially automatic in the chicken, according to Drs. N. Kleitman and T. Koppanyi, of the University of Chicago. Many European scientists are devoting attention to the mechanisms by which a body rights itself. The experimental methods used by these Chicago physiologists were introduced from Holland.

Walking in human beings is really controlled by the brain, though the go, stop, and turn signals are so well known that the process seems to require no conscious effort. But in a chicken the position and movement of the body are automatic from the day it cracks the shell, and thus it can stand up unaided, the experiments show.

When a chicken's body is pushed from side to side, its head will remain in the vertical plane, with its beak pointing down, Dr. Kleitman explains. This is an automatic adjustment of position which depends on the labyrinth of the inner ear. When the bird is moved suddenly through the air, its wings and tail adjust themselves as steadying influences and to help it in landing on the ground. This is a reflex, or automatic adjustment, of movement.

"These different reflexes take place even when the brain is lacking, providing the labyrinths are intact," said Dr. Kleitman.
