8 - 17 **EFFECT OF METHODS OF CLEARING LAND ON THE INCIDENCE OF WHITE ROOT DISEASE AND GROWTH OF RUBBER *HEVEA BRASILIENSIS***

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An experiment was initiated in 1975 at Woodend Estate, Panawala, to compare three pre-planting treatments (uprooted and burnt, uprooted and stacked, and stumps cut at ground level) ; four planting treatments (addition of sulphur, application of a collar protectant, addition of sulphur and application of a collar protectant, untreated control) and two post-planting treatments (naturals and leguminous cover).

The incidence of white root disease was higher when the stumps were left in the soil. Eradication of the sources of infection reduced infection. New centres of infection originated near infected stumps in the old stand. Application of a collar protectant at time of planting caused death of plants, but in the presence of sulphur, mortality was less. Both sulphur and collar protectant depressed growth, the latter more than the former. In the presence of sulphur, inhibitory effects of the collar protectant was less marked. The type of cover did not have any affect on the incidence of the disease but plants grew better under the leguminous cover.