II. HISTORICAL

From the available literature it appears that nothing is known in India so far as the canker producing complex fungal disease of jujube trees is concerned. Thus, in comparison to the investigations on the biology of wood-rotting fungi in relation to the biology of wood-rotting Basidiomycetes, the associated tree diseases and timber-decay done in western countries, India still lags behind considerably in these field of researches. In this country the pioneer workers in these lines of research are Bose (1930), Bagchee (1954, 1955), and Banerjee (1955, 1956a, 1956b). Banerjee, with a band of co-workers (1943, 1944, 1945, 1954a, 1954b, 1957a, 1957b, 1957c, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1966a, 1966b) has made valuable contributions on the biology of wood-rotting fungi, tree diseases, and timber decay of considerable economic importance. Following them and under direct supervision of Dr. Banerjee of the Mycological and Plant Pathological Laboratories, Calcutta University, Ganguly (1968), Samajpati (1969), Chakravarty (1970), Ghosh (1970), and Madhu Jyotsna (1972) have successfully extended the study of 'Tree and Timber Pathology' in India under their limited resources. At present, in the Mycological Laboratory (Basic and Applied), in these lines (Chowdhury, 1973; Samajpati, 1975; Chatterjee, 1975; Majumdar, 1976) are now being continued under the supervision of
Dr Samajpati. As the pathogens are legion, it is desirable that the researches in these lines should be taken up not only in Mycological and Plant Pathological Laboratories, Calcutta University, but in other States of India, considering the economic importance of trees and their uses in daily life. The present work is another example of similar type of investigation done under the direct supervision of Dr Banerjee, formerly Head of the Department of Botany, Calcutta University. It is urgently needed that the Department of Forestry in India should come forward and extend their hands of cooperation with the Universities in exploring these important vast field of researches.

Considerable amount of work on canker-producing diseases has, however, been done in western countries. A canker disease of oak has been described by Potter (1901) and the causal organism responsible for the disease has been identified by him as *Stereum quercinum*. This type of canker-formation is also known to occur in the continent of Europe including Great Britain. Eddelbuttel (1911) has described canker like wounds on young oak and apple trees and the pathogen responsible for the formation of cankers has been identified as *Stereum rugosum*. These cankers are similar to those on larch in external morphology. Rea (1922) is of opinion that *Stereum quercinum* Potter is synonymous with *Stereum spadiceum* Fr. (Syn. *Stereum gausapatum* Fr.) which is responsible for heartrots of oak in North America (Davidson, 1934) and a pipe-rot of oak in Great Britain. Lisse (1950)
has been the first worker to suggest that Potter's fungus is in reality *Stereum rugosum* and he has described a canker of oak caused by *Stereum rugosum* from a wood near Berlin. Similar views have been held by Bergenthal (1933-34) and Banerjee (1956), who have observed and studied in details the oak cankers in various places in Germany and Scotland respectively. Banerjee (1956) has found that *Stereum rugosum* is always associated with the disease as the causal agent for the development of cankers. Similar characters have also been reported by Ferdinandsen and Jorgensen (1938-39) from Denmark. Shigo (1969) has reported the canker disease of paper birch and yellow birch trees by *Poria obliqua* (Pers.) Bres and *Polyporus glomeratus* Peck. from U.S.A.