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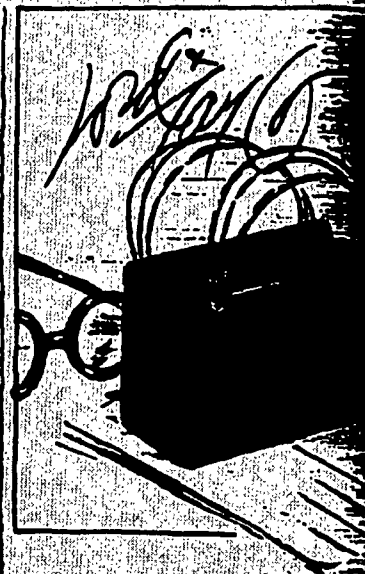
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powder-water-mix jewelry kits contain asbestos. In addition, within the past couple of years two different thoracic surgeons have published articles in leading medical journals which advocate the sprinkling of asbestos on surgical incisions in order to promote the adhesion and healing of tissue. This is very bad advice. Why, Dr. William E. Smith, who conducts animal studies at Fairleigh Dickinson University, has readily induced mesotheliomas in hamsters by injections of asbestos fibres into their pleural cavities!"

Dr. Selikoff went on to say that he understands full well that asbestos is an extremely valuable material, and that it has become essential in modern industrial society. "We epidemiologists recognize and study its dangers so that we may devise ways of minimizing or avoiding them," he said. "Improvements in the practice of industrial hygiene are needed to eliminate unnecessary exposure among asbestos workers and men in other building trades, and awareness of the potential risks of environmental contamination is needed until our studies indicate just how far out into the general population the problem extends. All I can say is that the public should be made aware of the problem, and that no one, particularly children and young people, should be unduly exposed. After all, today's children are almost certainly inhaling more asbestos than their parents did, and we now know that if a person inhales significant amounts of asbestos dust, he carries a burden that will provide a latent potential for the development of cancer for the rest of his life. Here's an example I'll never forget. A couple of years ago, just after Guyler Hammond, Jack Churg, and I published an article about asbestos and mesothelioma in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, I received a phone call from a doctor in Massachusetts who said that when he read the piece he immediately told his forty-three-year-old wife about it, because her sister had died of mesothelioma the year before. 'Imagine my horror,' this physician went on, 'when my wife proceeded to tell me that in 1943, while she and her sister were students in college, they had responded to a patriotic appeal and spent six weeks in a shipyard insulating pipes in destroyer escorts.'" Dr. Selikoff paused. "Two sisters with six weeks of exposure in 1943," he murmured. "Twenty-three years later, one of them dies of mesothelioma. And today, the other one—the doctor's wife—is being examined every few months to keep track of



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